

## ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES: DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION

Each of the eleven properties surveyed for this project are discussed below. Each discussion includes an architectural description, historical information, and an evaluation according to National Register Criteria. The properties are discussed in order from south to north as shown on Figure 2.

### Bellvue Farmstead (N-3975)

Description: The property known as Bellvue is located on the west side of Route 896, approximately 600 feet south of the 896-Howell School Road intersection. The property consists of the remains of an agricultural complex in which all buildings except a mobile home are uninhabited and unused, although in relatively good condition. The complex is sited on slightly elevated ground with a setback of over 600 feet from the highway, at the end of a rutted lane running between fallow and cultivated fields. The seven structures in the complex are a farmhouse, dairy barn, granary, storage shed, barn converted to machine shed, and house trailer (Plate 1).

The farmhouse (Plates 2 and 3) oriented perpendicular to Route 896 and facing south, exhibits three major construction phases. Earliest (prior to 1792) is a 2-1/2 story, side-gable side-hall unit of painted Flemish bond brick on a high brick basement. The three-bay facade features 12/12 double hung sash in molded surrounds above thick timber sills. On the west side the

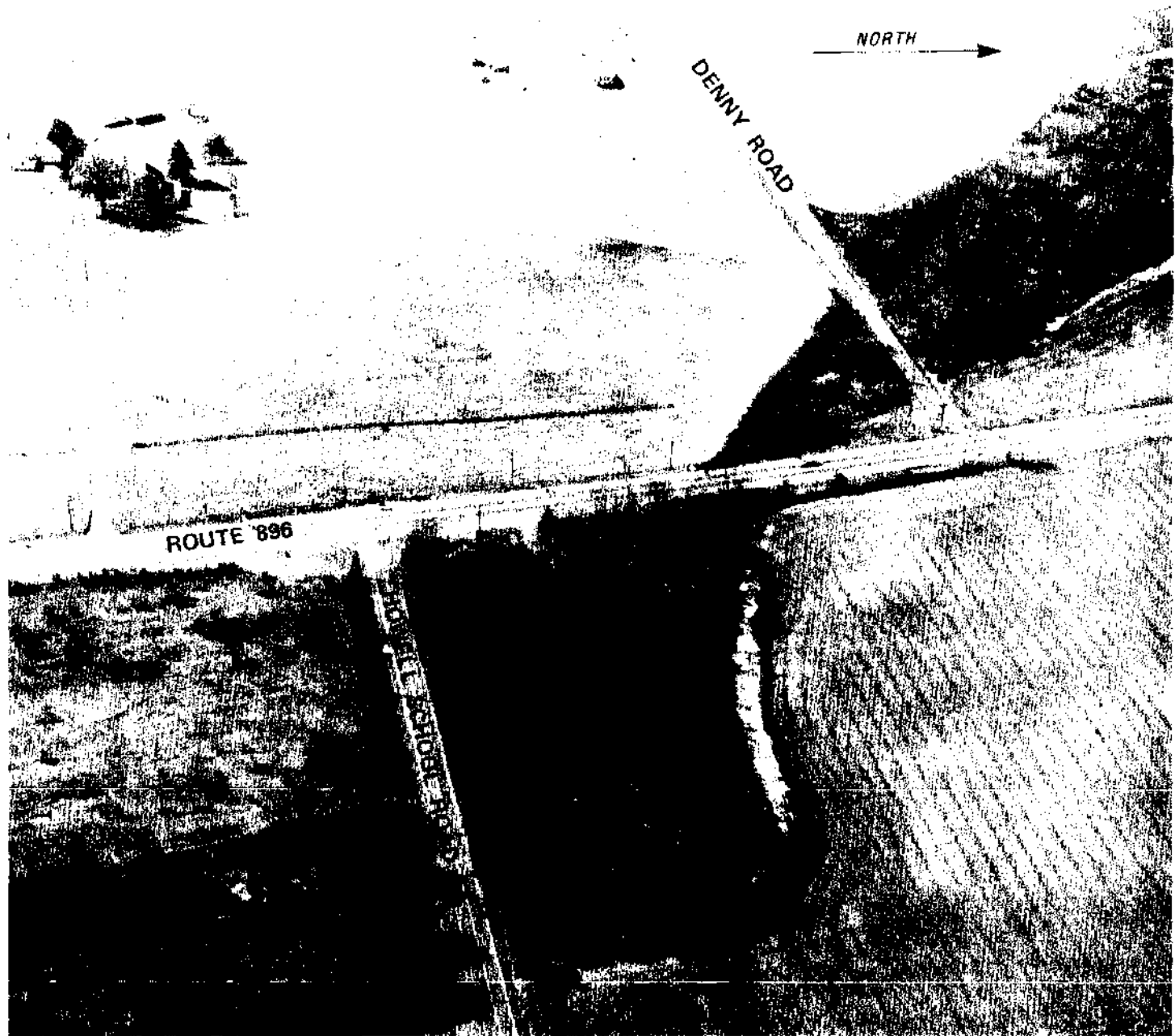


PLATE 1: Bellvue Farmstead SOURCE: DELDOT



PLATE 2: Bellvue Farmstead, View of Farmhouse Looking North

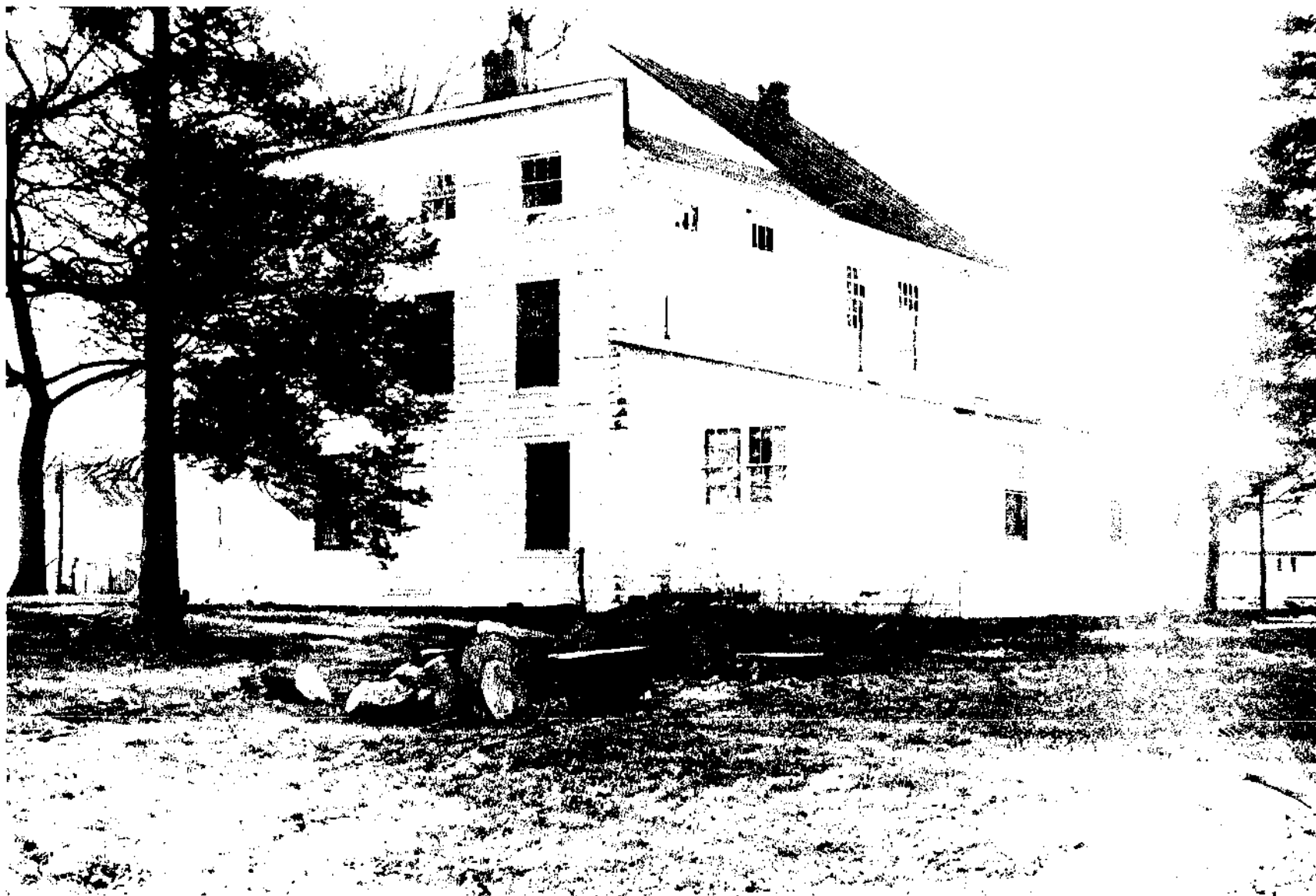


PLATE 3: Bellvue Farmstead, View of Farmhouse Looking Southwest

sash are 9/9, set within segmental-arched openings. The entrance, which has a five-light transom and molded surrounds, is sheltered by a wooden porch with square posts, flat roof, concrete floor, and applied trim. The standing-seam metal roof features an interior gable-end brick chimney on the west, and boxed eaves with cove molding. The north wall of the house may have once featured a pentroof, as is suggested by exposed floor joists within the rear addition.

The second, mid-19th century phase of construction is represented by a large wood-frame double-pile unit built on to the east side of the brick section. The frame unit is also 2-1/2 stories, but as it lacks a basement the floor levels of the two sections do not correspond. The tarpaper-covered roof of the frame unit is flat over most of the structure, with short, shallow slopes on south and north sides. The east gable end is finished with a horizontal parapet or cornice. The unit is two bays wide (south elevation) and four bays deep, this depth corresponding to that of the brick section. Window treatment consists of 6/6 double hung sash set in flat plank surrounds with narrow drip shelves, and, at attic level, horizontal "eyebrow" windows, of which those of the east side are double hung. An entrance, out of line with the windows above it, is located in the east elevation.

The third, 1950s phase consists of a one-story unit with corrugated sheet metal roof extending across the north side of the house. One half of this unit is fully enclosed, while the

other functions as a porch with concrete slab floor and thin metal posts.

The interior of the brick section is arranged with a side-hall plan. The entry opens directly into the stair hall, which features a partially-enclosed staircase with winders, spindle balustrade, and square newel post with a flat, circular cap. The existing double-pile room arrangement on the west side of the hall is not original, but rather the result of partitioning what had at one time been a single large room extending from front to rear, as evidenced by the wall now bisecting the filled-in fireplace centered in the west wall (Plate 4). (The same holds for the second floor, where the fireplace is now in closet space created by a pair of partitions.) First floor woodwork in this section includes simply but strongly molded door and window surrounds, narrow baseboards largely obscured by metal heating units, and relatively wide, low, 6 panel-doors with box locks and brass or ceramic knobs. In the rear parlor, the window sills extend nearly to the floor and are fashioned as narrow window seats with paneled backs. A portion of original finish in the hall is preserved within a pantry created below the stairs when the stairs were enclosed in the 1950s.

The main floor of the frame unit contains two large rooms connected by a very wide doorway fitted with four-panel double folding doors. Each room features a fireplace, neither of which have mantels or are functional. The woodwork is of a simplified Greek Revival type in which the tops of the window and door

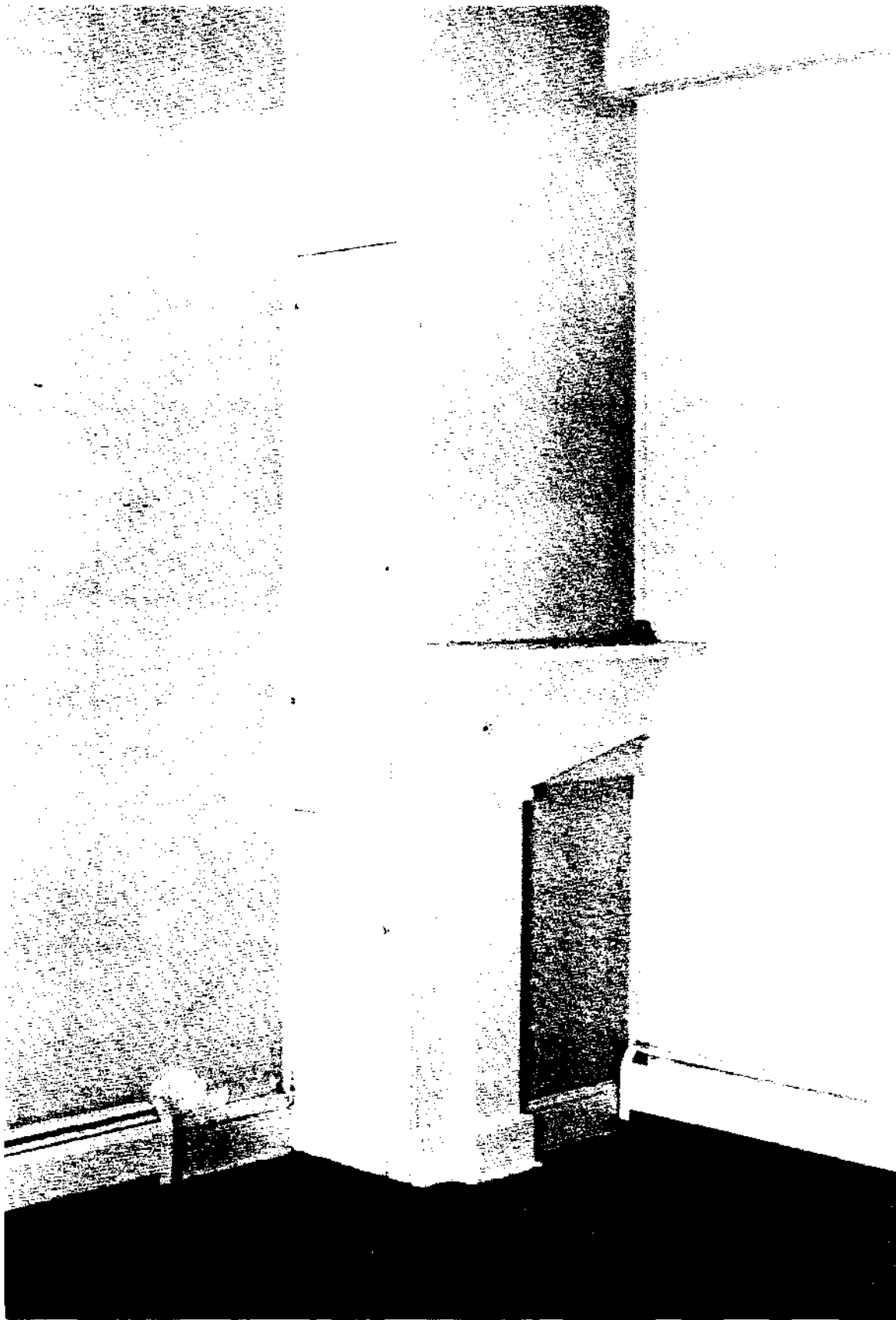


PLATE 4: Bellvue Farmstead, Partitioned Mantel on First Floor of Brick Section

surrounds, edged with a thick half-round molding, are shaped as very shallow triangular pediments (Plate 5). This same treatment, less the molded edge, is repeated on the second floor, which contains two bedrooms with filled-in chimney flues.

The interior of the mid-20th century frame extension at the rear contains a kitchen and laundry/storage room. It has no distinctive features.

The agricultural buildings (Plates 6, 7 and 8) are located southwest of the farmhouse. Largest is a gambrel-roofed dairy barn constructed of concrete block with vertical plank siding on the loft level. Nearby to the south is a one-room wood frame structure with gable roof, vertical plank siding and six-light fixed sash windows. Beyond this structure is a frame barn with corrugated sheet metal gable roof and vertical plank siding. Three vehicular bays have been cut into the south side for machinery storage. A machine shed of concrete block construction, open on the south side, is attached to the west end of this barn. The corncrib, a large gable-roofed structure the vertical boarding of which is slightly spaced for ventilation, is the southernmost structure in the complex.

Historical Discussion: The property known as Bellvue was originally identified in a survey of Pencader Hundred conducted through the New Castle County Department of Planning, and was subsequently included in a draft National Register nomination prepared by that agency entitled "Historic Resources of Pencader Hundred." The history of this property has been traced through





PLATE 5: Bellvue Farmstead, Representative Woodwork on First Floor, Frame Section



PLATE 6: Bellvue Farmstead, Dairy Barn, View to West

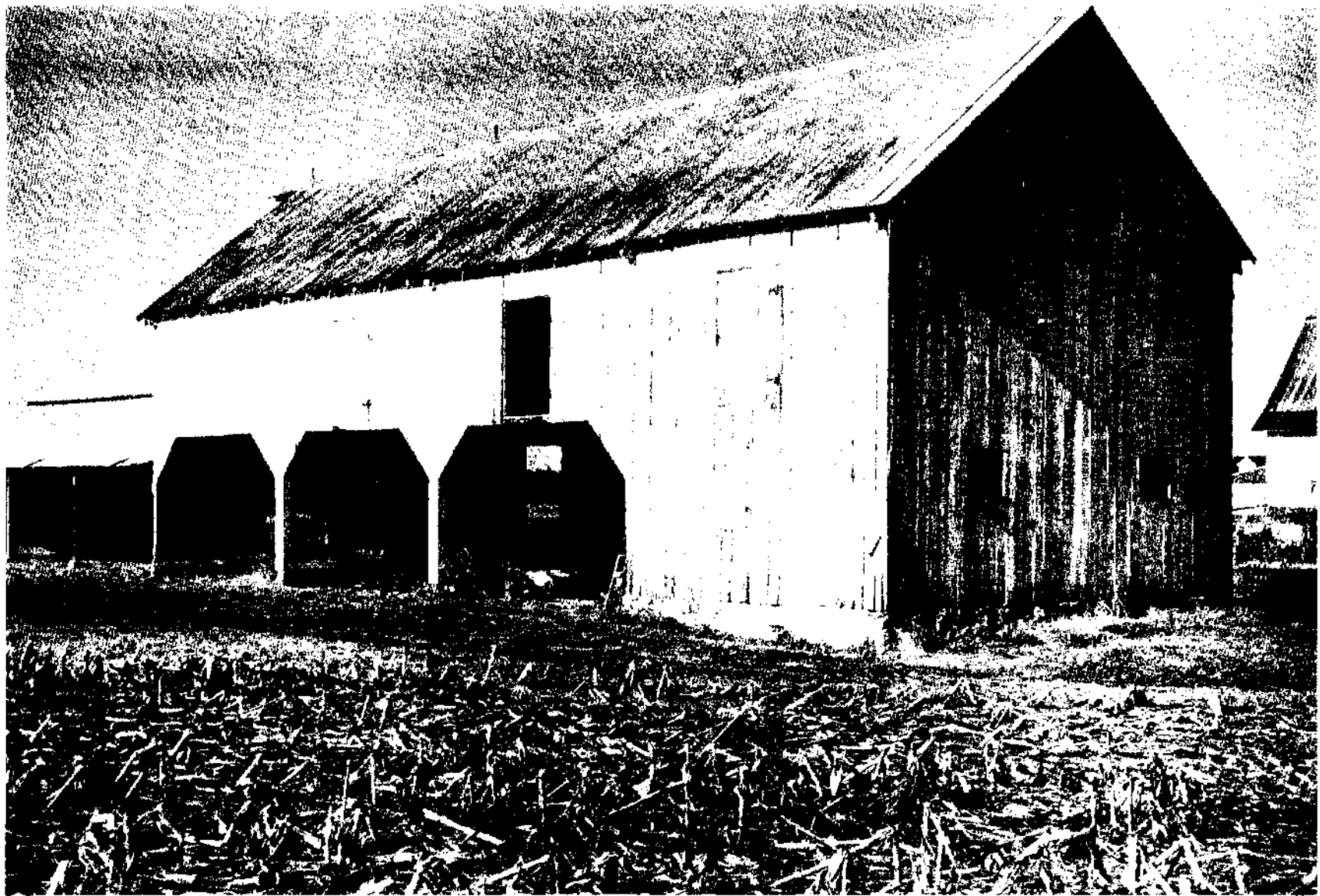


PLATE 7: Bellvue Farmstead, Barn/Machine Shed, View to Northwest



PLATE 8: Bellvue Farmstead, Corn Crib, View to West

1792, when the then owner, David Howell, died, leaving four minor orphan children, David, Oliver, Thomas and Samuel. An inspection conducted for the Chancery Court the following year included mention of a "two story brick house" that it may be assumed referred to the masonry portion of the dwelling present on the farmstead today (New Castle County (hereafter cited as NCC) Record of Chancery, Orphans Court, G1/344; H1/52).

Although the transactions have not been identified, the farm was in possession of one of David Howell's sons, Oliver, at the time of the latter's death in 1814. Oliver Howell bequeathed all his real estate to his wife, Eleanor. Eleanor Howell died in 1823, leaving the property to her two children by her first marriage, Daniel Thomas and Elizabeth Thomas Boulden, as tenants in common (NCC Wills, R1/123; R1/496).

In 1826, Daniel Thomas sold his interest in the property to Nathaniel Boulden, his sister Elizabeth's husband (NCC Deeds, D4/391). Subsequently, Elizabeth died, leaving to Nathaniel her half interest in the farm (NCC Deeds I5/221). In 1842, Nathaniel Boulden sold his interest in the farm to Curtis B. Ellison, then of St. Georges Hundred, with the understanding that as Elizabeth Boulden's children (Eleanor, Nathan, and Jessie) reached their majority they would also convey their interests in the property to Ellison (NCC Deeds, I5/221; I5/224/U5/30).

Curtis Ellison was thus by 1847 full owner of the former Howell farm, which he named Bellvue (Beers 1868) and upon which he resided until his death in 1886 (NCC Wills I/2/444). Erection

of the frame portion of the farmhouse is reasonably attributed to Curtis Ellison, as the Greek Revival stylistic elements suggests a mid-19th century construction date.

In 1895, following the death of Ellison's wife, Margaret, the Bellvue farm passed to four of their nine children, Lorena, Julia, Anna and Eliza (NCC Wills, I2444; Public Sale T16/242). Through the subsequent deaths of Lorena, Anna and Elizabeth, Julia eventually acquired sole ownership of Bellvue, which she bequeathed to her nephew, Eugene Ellison Paxon, at her death in 1939 (NCC Wills N6/256). The farm remained in the family until Paxon's widow sold it to Benjamin and Bertha Johnson in 1950 (NCC Deeds U49/273).

Evaluation: The property known as Bellvue is locally significant under National Register Criterion C. The original portion of the farmhouse, which although altered in a variety of ways over the past two centuries, still retains distinctive features associated with the vernacular adaptation of the mid-18th century Georgian house type, the adaptation here being the "two-thirds" variation with side hall, double-pile plan. This form of the Georgian plan is most commonly associated with urban townhouse construction beginning in the later 18th century, but was not infrequently translated to rural settings in the lower Delaware Valley region (Glassie 1972:37-38). The Bellvue farmhouse is also among the relatively limited number of 18th century dwellings known to survive in lower New Castle County, as most of the more numerous log or frame dwellings from that period are no longer

extant, many having been removed during the "rebuilding" of the area that begin toward the middle of the 19th century (Herman 1984:5). Thus, while not typical of 18th century rural domestic architecture in the region as a whole, the house may be said to illustrate one of the types employed by those of relatively substantial means at the time.

The frame section, construction of which is estimated to have occurred ca. 1840-50 under the ownership of Curtis Ellison, retains several features associated with the Greek Revival, most obviously the treatment of the interior window and door surrounds, and the insertion of "eyebrow" windows to illuminate the attic level. Construction of this section resulted in a full Georgian first floor plan, despite the difference in floor levels and the removal of the partition wall between what had been originally two rooms on the west side of the stairhall. The brick section was originally built with a double-pile arrangement, in which the original front and back rooms shared a common gable end chimney stack, with corner fireplaces "back to back", that were rebuilt at the time the two rooms were combined into one. (Another documented example of this kind of alteration is the Samuel Townsend House, near Townsend (Herman 1982:186-7).) The treatment of the frame unit's east gable, if original, may reflect the influence of the Italianate style in its attempt to emulate the rectilinear, boxy massing often characteristic of that style (see for example Hedgelawn, in Clark 1984:30-32). From

an aesthetic view, the frame addition is awkwardly done, and as a previous survey has noted, gives the house a disjointed character (Historic Resources of Pencader Hundred, n.d.). Nonetheless, it is integral to the evolutionary history of the house, chronologically associated with the mid-19th century "rebuilding" of rural northern Delaware that transformed existing structures as well as fostering construction of many new houses and farm buildings.

The outbuildings on the farmstead, while not of individual significance, contribute to the importance of the property. Erected well after Ellison's expansion of the house, they reflect the growth of the dairy industry in northern and central Delaware that occurred in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As such, they extend the continuum of agricultural life and livelihood still visible on this farmstead from its late colonial origins to early modern times.

DeShane-Paxon House (N-        )

Description: The DeShane-Paxon House is located on the east side of Route 896, some 800 feet north of the intersection with Howell School Road. The house is set back approximately 350 feet from the roadway, and 200 feet behind a ranch house in which the property owner resides. The surroundings in the immediate area consists largely of fallow and cultivated fields. The house yard proper is scattered with remains of collapsed wooden sheds, old automobiles and scrap metal.

The house consists of a 2-1/2 story side-gable single-pile main block with a two story rear ell (Plates 9 and 10). The house





PLATE 9: DeShane — Paxon House, View Looking Southeast

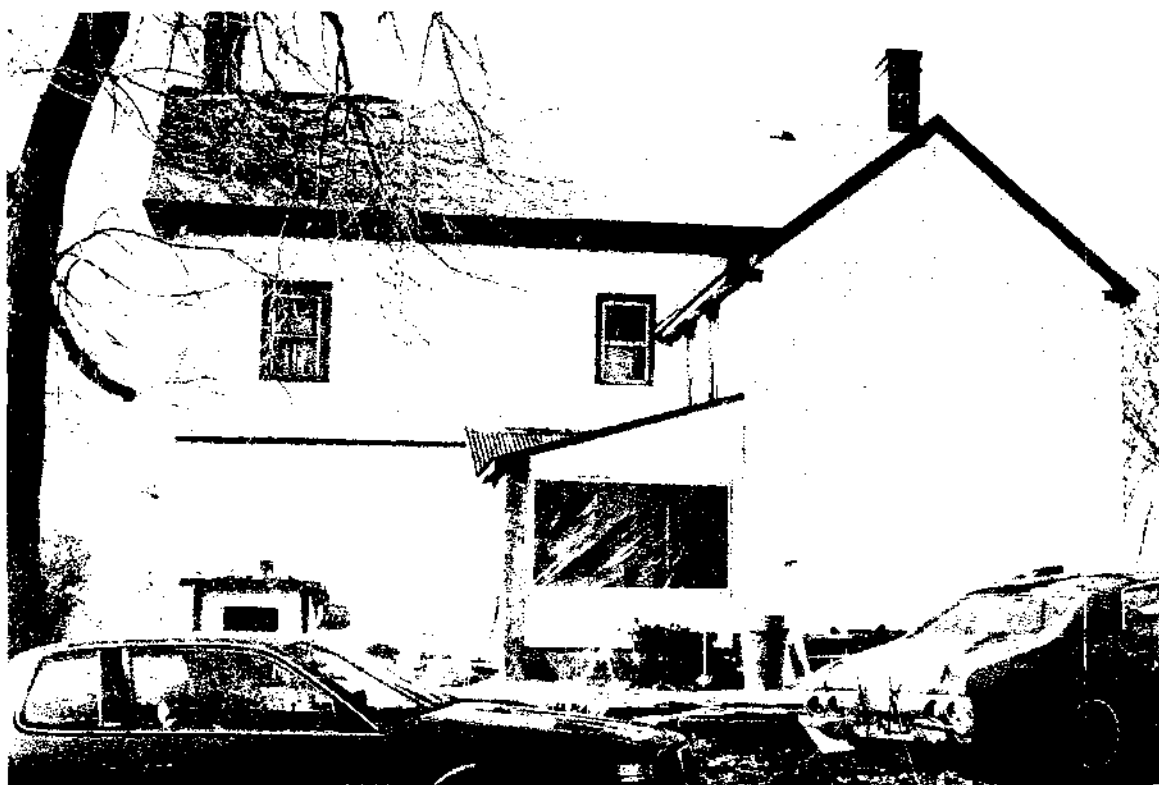


PLATE 10: DeShane — Paxton House, View Looking West

is of wood frame construction, clad in gray-tan artificial shingling, on a raised masonry foundation coated with concrete. Tall brick chimneys with corbelled caps are located within the gable ends of the main block. The roof is covered with composition shingles, and on the main block has molded cornices with partial returns.

The facade is divided into five bays. The fenestration is slightly asymmetrical, suggesting either that the center bay was repositioned or that the existing main block is the product of more than one building episode. Windows in the facade have 2/2 double hung sash in narrow molded surrounds, as do those in the two-bay side elevations. Several 6/6 windows are present in the ell, the floor levels of which do not correspond to those of the main block.

On the front, the center three bays of the first floor, including the front entry, are hidden within a shed-roofed porch enclosed with plywood. A second shed-roofed porch, semi-enclosed with plywood and tarpaper, shelters the kitchen entrance located in the south wall to the ell. The interior was not accessible during this survey, as the tenant occupants were not at home on several attempts.

Historical Discussion: The history of this property has been traced to 1847, when a 100-acre farm from the estate of Thomas McMullen (who died in 1832) was sold at a Sheriff's sale to Charles Boulden, then of New Castle Hundred. The deed for this transaction includes a notation that at that time the farm

included three dwelling houses and a stable (NCC Deeds U5/490). The following year, Charles Boulden (then of Pencader Hundred) sold 95 acres of this tract to William DeShane (NCC Deeds X5/330). William DeShane is listed in the 1850 agricultural census of Pencader Hundred as owning 180 acres in the Hundred (of which the 95-acre farm was presumably a part) but does not appear in the 1860 census. In 1867, William DeShane sold the 95 acre farm to Merrit Paxon, who took a \$3,150 mortgage with the former payable in three years (NCC Deeds L8/79; NCC Mortgage, M2/99).

Paxon is listed in the 1860 agricultural census as owning 400 acres (380 improved, 20 unimproved) in Pencader Hundred. Beers' 1868 atlas suggests that, with the acquisition of the 95 acre farm from DeShane, Paxon held most of the land fronting on the east side of Route 896 from Howell School Road to Porter Road, as well as several tracts, including "Wheatland Farm", near St. Georges Station (Kirkwood). In 1880, however, the 95-acre DeShane farm was sold at a Sheriff's sale to satisfy a \$1,344 debt Paxon still owed to William DeShane (NCC Deeds R11/278). The purchaser was Benjamin R. Ustick, who in 1883 sold the farm to Robert D. Moss (NCC Deeds Q12/542), who in turn sold it to George W. Price of Middletown (NCC Deeds R12/131). The following year (1884) the farm, plus 1-3/4 acres at the southeast corner of Route 896 and Howell School Road, was sold to Levin Catts of Pencader Hundred (NCC Deeds C13/44). By 1889, Catts had sold a small piece of land to the Commissioners of School District #57, presumably at the corner where the altered remains of School #57 still stand (NCC

Deeds 014/578). The rest of the tract remained in the Catts family into the 20th century.

The earliest published map illustrating a structure at this location is Beers' 1868 atlas, on which it is shown as the southernmost of three structures on the east side of Route 896 between Porter and Howell School Roads on land owned by Merrit H. Paxon. The general form and proportions of the house as it now exists are consistent with a mid-19th century building phase. However, the possibility that the house achieved this character through more than one construction episode is suggested by the asymmetrical fenestration of the facade and the difference in floor levels between the main block and ell. It is therefore possible that a portion of this house may have been present at an earlier 19th century date, perhaps as one of the three "dwelling houses" located on the tract at the time it was sold to Charles Boulden in 1847. Construction resulting in the present configuration may be ascribed either to William DeShane, who owned the farm from 1850 to 1867, or to Merrit Paxon, owner from 1867 to 1880. Whether either DeShane or Paxon actually resided in the house is open to question. De Shane appears in the 1850 agricultural census but not in the 1860 agricultural census, though he still owned the farm in the latter year. Paxon is listed in the 1860 and 1880 agricultural censuses. The enumeration of the latter is dated June 24, 1880 with Paxon listed as an "owner", but as of June 3 he had not held title to the 95 acre farm (the deed was recorded that day). It is thus possible that Paxon

resided in the brick house to the north, which he owned from at least 1868 to about 1881, or elsewhere in Pencader Hundred. (The Baist map of 1893 may be incorrect with regard to Paxon; first, Paxon died in 1886; secondly, the deed by which George Price conveyed the 95 acres to Levin Catts in 1884 indicates that Paxon's land north of this farm had been conveyed to R.T. Cann.) Therefore, it appears likely that the house on the 95-acre farm may have been constructed and subsequently used primarily by tenant "farm managers" through most of its 19th century history.

Evaluation: The DeShane-Paxon house, which appears to have achieved its present form and character by the third quarter of the 19th century, is an example of the I-house with ell form that has been identified as characteristic of rural domestic architecture in north-central Delaware, including Pencader Hundred, in the decades just prior to and after the Civil War. However, the house has experienced obvious exterior alterations, notably application of artificial siding and construction of an enclosed porch across a portion of the facade. It is therefore argued that the house does not retain sufficient integrity of form, materials and basic exterior architectural features to qualify for the National Register under Criterion C.

Roger Williams (Charles Boulden) House (N-3986)

Description: The Roger Williams house is the principal structure in a small agricultural complex lying on the east side of Route 896 approximately 3,000 feet north of Howell School Road. The house, oriented perpendicular to the road and facing

south, is sited over 100 feet from the roadway on a lot slightly elevated above the road and an adjacent drainage ditch. The out-buildings extend some 200 feet east of the house and are arranged in a rough quadrangle open on the west end. The house yard area includes several mature shade trees and a row of ornamental shrubbery along the north and east edges. The complex is surrounded on north, east and south by fallow and cultivated fields (Plate 11).

The house is a two-story side-gable single-pile structure built of seven course common bond brick on a low brick foundation (Plates 12 and 13). One brick chimney is extant within the wall of the west gable end; a similar chimney at the east gable end has been removed. The roof is covered with composition shingling, with gable-end eaves flush with the exterior wall planes. On the north and south elevations, a narrow line of corbelling constitutes a modest frieze.

The south (main) elevation is irregularly fenestrated with four bays (the main entry and three 9/6 double hung sash windows) on the first story and three bays (with 6/6 double hung sash windows) symmetrically arranged at the second story. The fenestration on the north elevation appears to have originally been symmetrical with three openings at each story. However, the center openings on both stories have been filled in and replaced with a rear entry (not used) and a small single-sash window, both set slightly to the east of the original openings. The west gable end features two windows on the first story, one on the second,



PLATE 11: Williams — Boulden House

SOURCE: DELDOT



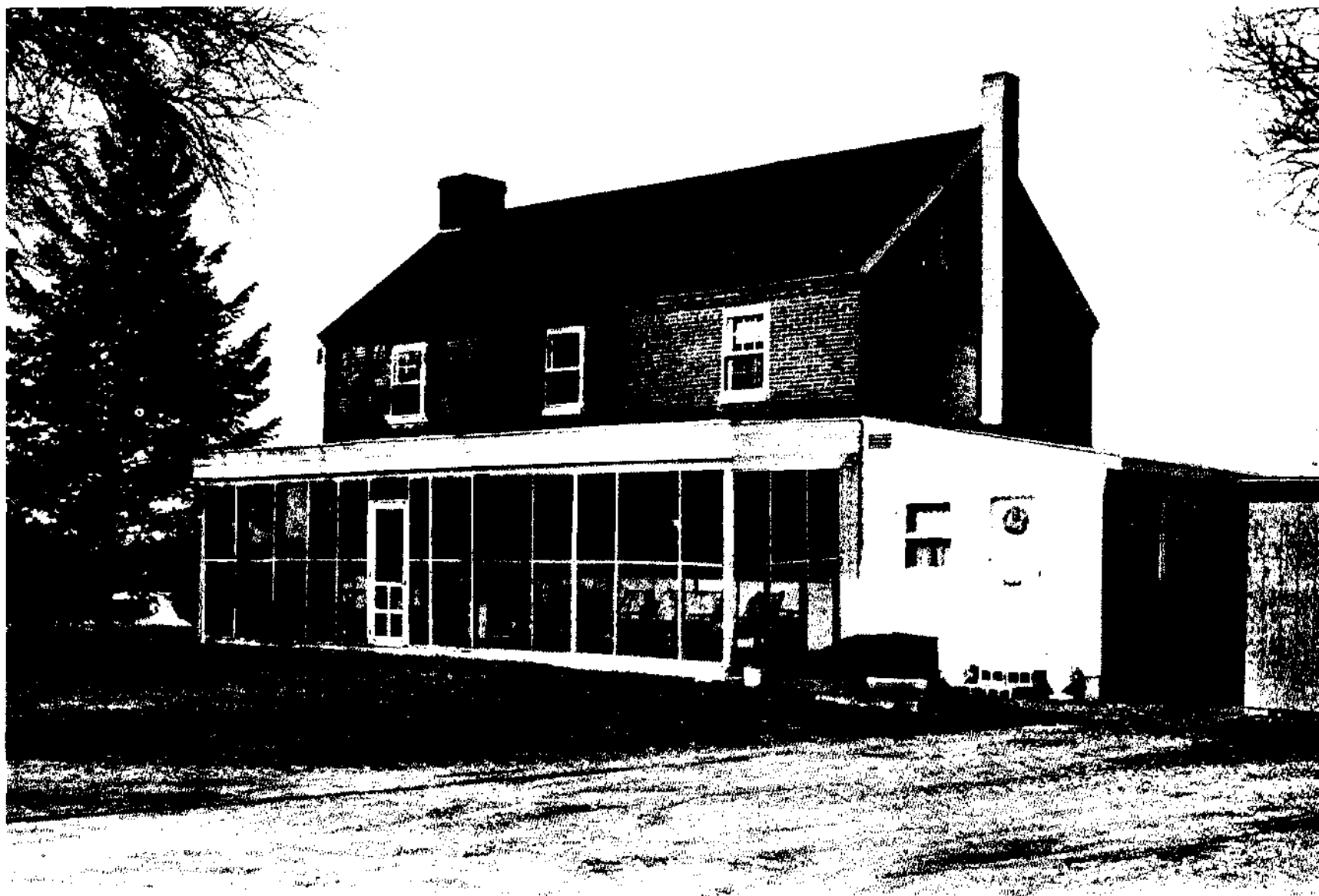


PLATE 12: Roger Williams (C Boulden) House, View to Northwest



PLATE 13: Roger Williams (C. Boulden) House, View to Southeast

and two square fitted sash windows at attic level. Similar attic windows are present in the east gable, below which is a shadow remaining from a gable-roofed unit removed and replaced with a shed-roofed aluminum clad kitchen wing on a concrete block foundation (however, an earlier exterior bulkhead entrance to the cellar below this wing has been retained).

A screened porch with wooden floor and flat roof extends across the facade. The main entry features a six panel door with a three-light transom set in the plane of the inner wall surface, framed with a strongly molded surround. The exterior wall within the porch has been stuccoed and whitewashed.

The 1979 CRS form for this property and the draft National Register nomination for Historic Resources in Pencader Hundred report that the interior of the house includes an original kitchen corner cupboard, an enclosed winding stair in the central hall and chairrails in hall and living room.

There are three outbuildings associated with the property. Largest is a timber framed crib barn or granary with vertical plank siding on the ground level and horizontal weatherboarding at loft level, covered with a standing seam metal front-gable roof (Plate 14). To the east is a long one-story wagon shed or stable with vertical plank siding, six-light fixed sash windows and side gable standing seam metal roof with projecting rafter ends. Almost directly opposite this structure is a machine shed of similar form, partially open on the south side. The fourth building, oriented perpendicular to the others at the east end of



PLATE 14: Roger Williams (C. Boulden) House, Corncrib/Granary and Shed, View to Southeast

the complex, is a large front-gable shed clad in corrugated sheet metal. The extent to which these structures are now used for agricultural purposes appears to be limited.

Historical Discussion: Lack of an instrument by which this property can be connected with its present owner has limited historical research on this house. However, the house is tentatively ascribed to Roger Williams, "yeoman" of Pencader Hundred who died intestate in 1810, leaving 230 acres of farm and woodland on the east side of Route 896 (NCC Orphans' Court Records, U. of Del. Microfilm #3087, Reel 119, Inventory 23 Aug. 1810). Williams' estate was not settled until 1825, when the 230 acres were divided into two tracts, one of which, of 93 acres, fronted on Route 896 and contained at least one dwelling (NCC Orphans' Court Records, M1/88; M1/153-54; M1/313). This tract was awarded to Abel Williams, eldest surviving son of Roger Williams, who subsequently sold it to William Brown and moved to Ohio (NCC Deeds L4/179). The tract by 1830 had come into the possession of Thomas McMullen, through a Sheriff's sale out of Brown's estate (Brown died within a year after acquiring the property)(NCC Deeds D4/422; L4/225; L4/179). McMullen died in 1832, but his estate appears to have remained unsettled into the 1840s (NCC Wills S1/540). In 1847 the former Williams tract was sold at a Sheriff's sale to Charles Boulden (who is also shown as owner on Rea and Price (1849) and Lake and Beers (1860)). By 1868 the land and house were in possession of Merrit Paxon, who owned several large tracts in Pencader Hundred during the period ca. 1865-1885,

including Wheatland Farm outside of St. Georges Station (Kirkwood) (Beers 1868). Paxon died in 1886, and this property, as well as Wheatland Farm, came into the ownership of Richard T. Cann, who also had inherited large family tracts north of Porter Road (Baist 1893).

Evaluation: The Roger Williams house is evaluated as significant under Criterion C as a noteworthy example of vernacular domestic architecture from the late 18th- early 19th century period of north-central Delaware's rural history. It is a clear example of the I-house form that dominates the architectural history of the area, appearing to date from the period that preceded the major rebuilding of the agricultural economy and rural environment in the middle decades of the 19th century. Lacking qualities of formal or popular style that were increasingly applied to the I-house during the 19th century, the Williams house instead conveys a more "folk" tradition in its essentially hall-parlor plan and linear composition. The three-over-four treatment of the facade is an apparent localism that enhances the importance of the house as an artifact of past building traditions in Pencader Hundred (a similar facade, but with two front entries, is found on the Cann farmhouse a short distance to the north (see below)). Alterations, such as loss of the original east wing and end chimney, addition of the porch, and changes to the rear fenestration, have affected the integrity of the house to a certain extent. However, the original design intent and character of the house remains readily appreciable, and the house

is appropriately recognized as an important artifact of the region's rural architectural history.

The outbuildings, representing the remains of later 19th century agricultural activity on the property, are considered contributing elements, with the granary a good representative of its type.

Cann Farmstead (N-3977)

Description: The Cann farmstead occupies an area lying west of Route 896 and north of the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad right-of-way. The agricultural complex includes a dwelling located near the railroad right-of-way, plus fifteen outbuildings lying northwest and north of the house. The house is set off from the outbuildings by unpaved lanes that enclosed the house yard, which is further defined by fencing and concentration of large coniferous trees on the north side (Plate 15).

The farmhouse, which was largely completed prior to 1835, is composed of three side-gable single-pile units arranged in linear fashion and oriented to face south (Plates 16 and 17). The largest unit, on the east end, is a two-story stuccoed brick block with hall-parlor plan and rectangular brick chimneys rising out of each gable end wall. The front and rear elevations are irregularly fenestrated, with four symmetrically arranged openings on the first story and three on the second. In the two center bays of the facade are entrances framed with paneled reveals and beaded surrounds, opening directly into the "hall" and "parlor". At the southwest corner is an exterior bulkhead entry to the







PLATE 16: Cann Farmstead, View of Farmhouse Looking Northeast



PLATE 17: Cann Farmstead, View of Farmhouse Looking Southwest

cellar, which is completely below grade. Across the facade is a hipped roofed porch on a concrete slab with wooden Tuscan Doric columns.

The middle unit, also of stuccoed brick, is also two stories high, but with floor levels slightly below those of the easternmost unit. This middle section is two bays wide, with an exterior entrance, and contains one original room on each floor. The depth of this section has been increased through a two-story frame extension on the rear which contains a passage and stair. The third, westernmost, section of the house is two stories high, and, although two bays wide, is wider than the middle section. It is of timber frame construction with scalloped synthetic wall shingling, and roof extended as a "catslide" to just above the first floor windows on the north side. The roofs of all three sections have been recently recovered with composition shingles, and earlier window sash replaced with 1/1 sash.

The interior is arranged, as the exterior suggests, as a series of rooms opening directly into one another, rather than oriented around a center passage. The house retains a variety of noteworthy interior features, including an enclosed winding stair beside the easternmost chimney, a Federal-style mantelpiece in the first floor room of the central section, deep window reveals with simple moldings, and wide paneled doors with box locks (Plates 18 and 19). The first floor fireplaces in the east section have been remodeled in the 20th century with brick mantelpieces, and are now no longer functional. The kitchen area



PLATE 18: Cann Farmstead, Mantel at West End of Middle Section, First Floor



PLATE 19: Cann Farmstead, Woodwork on Second Floor, East Section

in the west section has been moved to the rear (north) in order to accommodate an enclosed porch within the south wall plane. Alterations of these kinds, however do not diminish the high level of physical integrity that characterizes this dwelling overall.

The outbuildings of the Cann farmstead are arranged in rectilinear fashion extending north and west of the house. Many of these wood frame structures appear to date from the last quarter of the 19th century, in several instances with early 20th century alterations consistent with the property's evolution as a dairy farm. Located directly northwest of the house are a garage with lean-to side extensions, a privy, poultry house and a large gable-roofed crib barn with a very low earthen ramp leading to a gable-end entrance (Plates 20 and 21). North of the farm lane running west from the road to the fields are a hog house, several small corncribs, a six-bay machine shed and another poultry shed (Plate 22). Northernmost in the complex are two large barns set perpendicular to one another and connected by a corrugated metal shed in a L-shaped arrangement (Plates 23 and 24). Both appear to have been originally built as all-timber structures, altered in the 20th century through reconstruction of the ground levels in concrete block for dairy purposes. One barn has been clad in asbestos shingling on three sides, while the other retains vertical plank siding on the upper levels of all four walls. The former barn has a concrete floor and pipe stanchions for milking. The ground level of the latter barn is divided into a series of animal pens.



PLATE 20: Cann Farmstead, Garage/Machine Shed, View to West

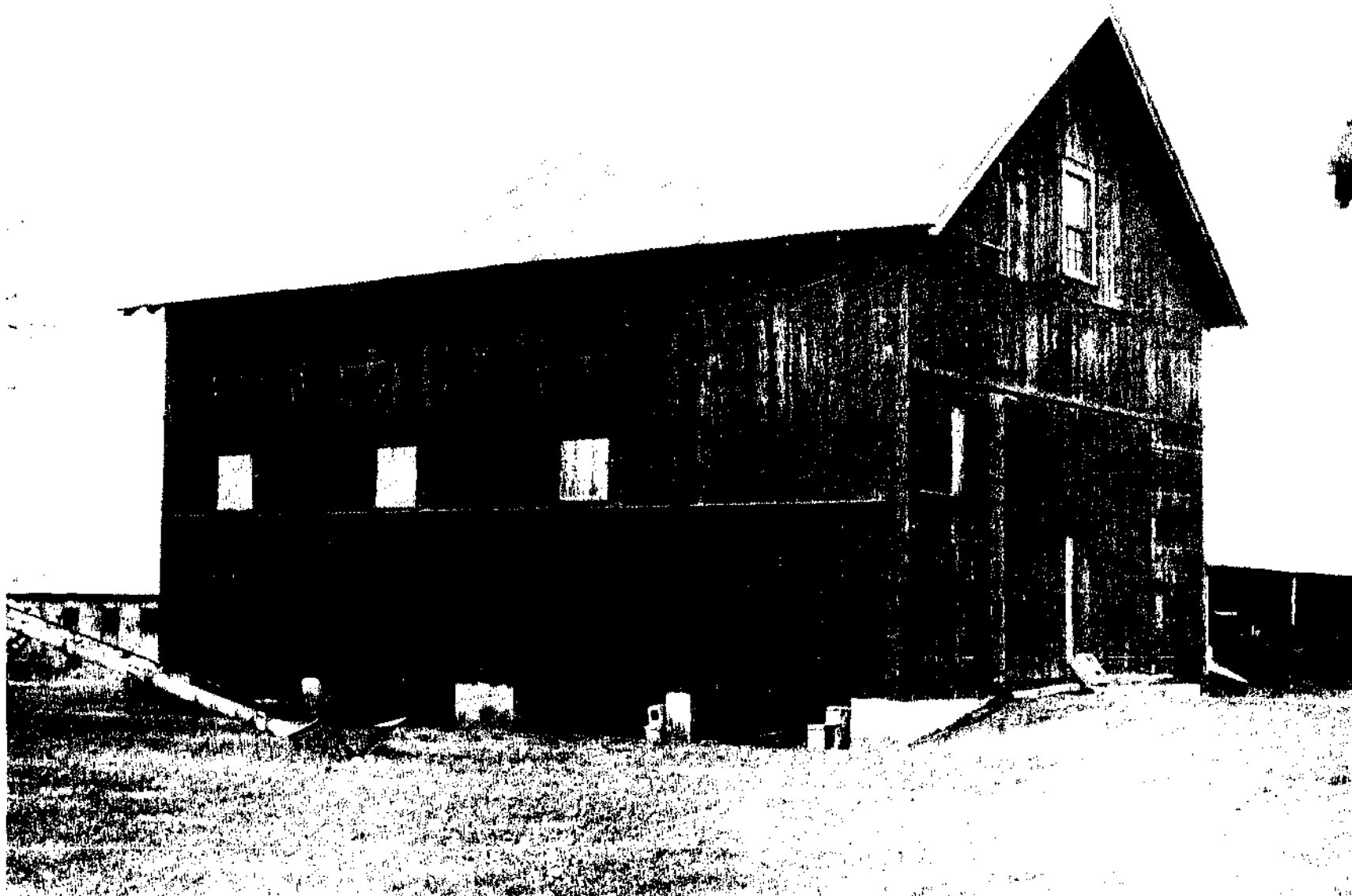


PLATE 21: Cann Farmstead, Corncrib/Granary, View to Northwest



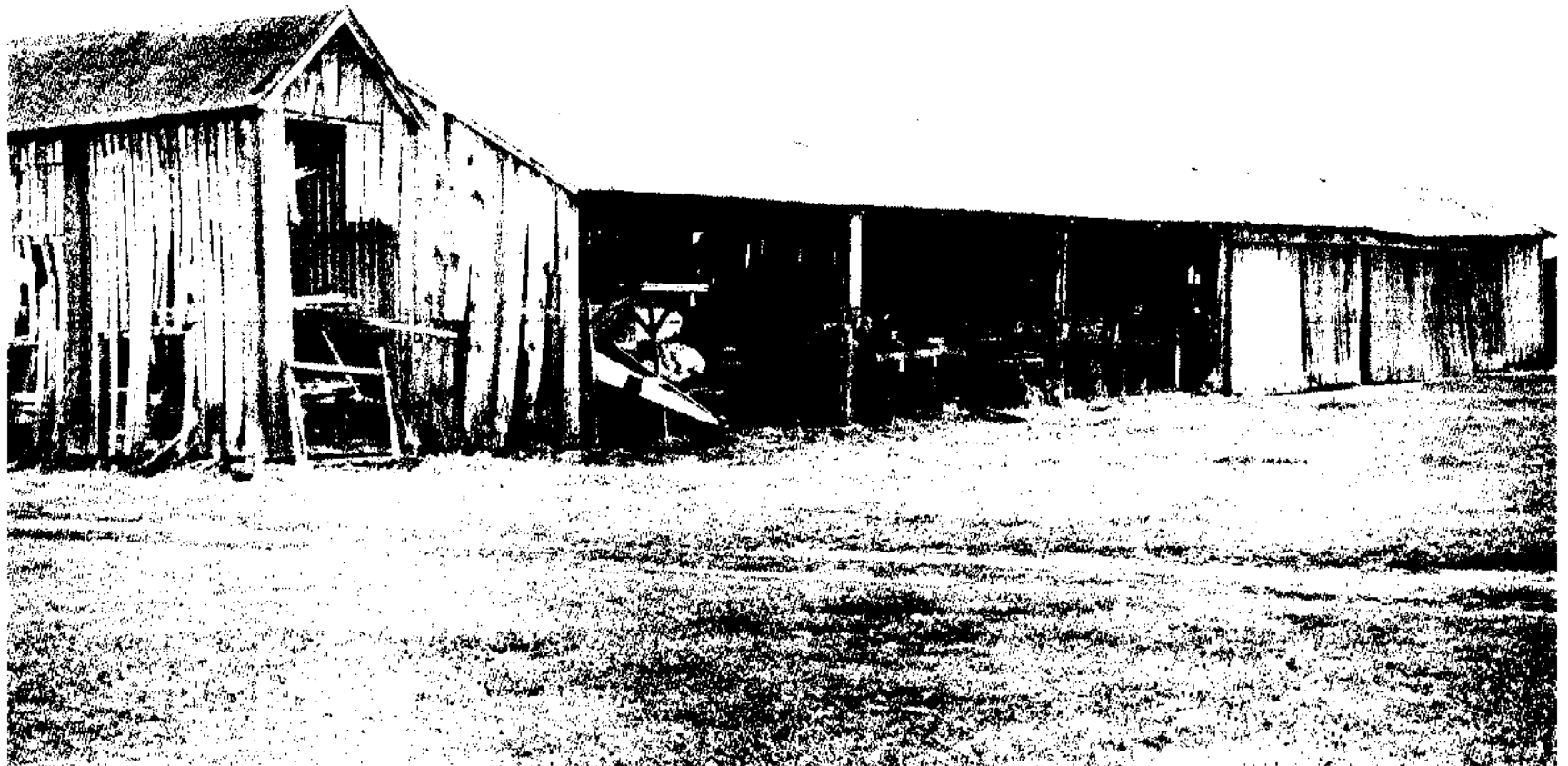


PLATE 22: Cann Farmstead, Machine Shed, View to Northwest

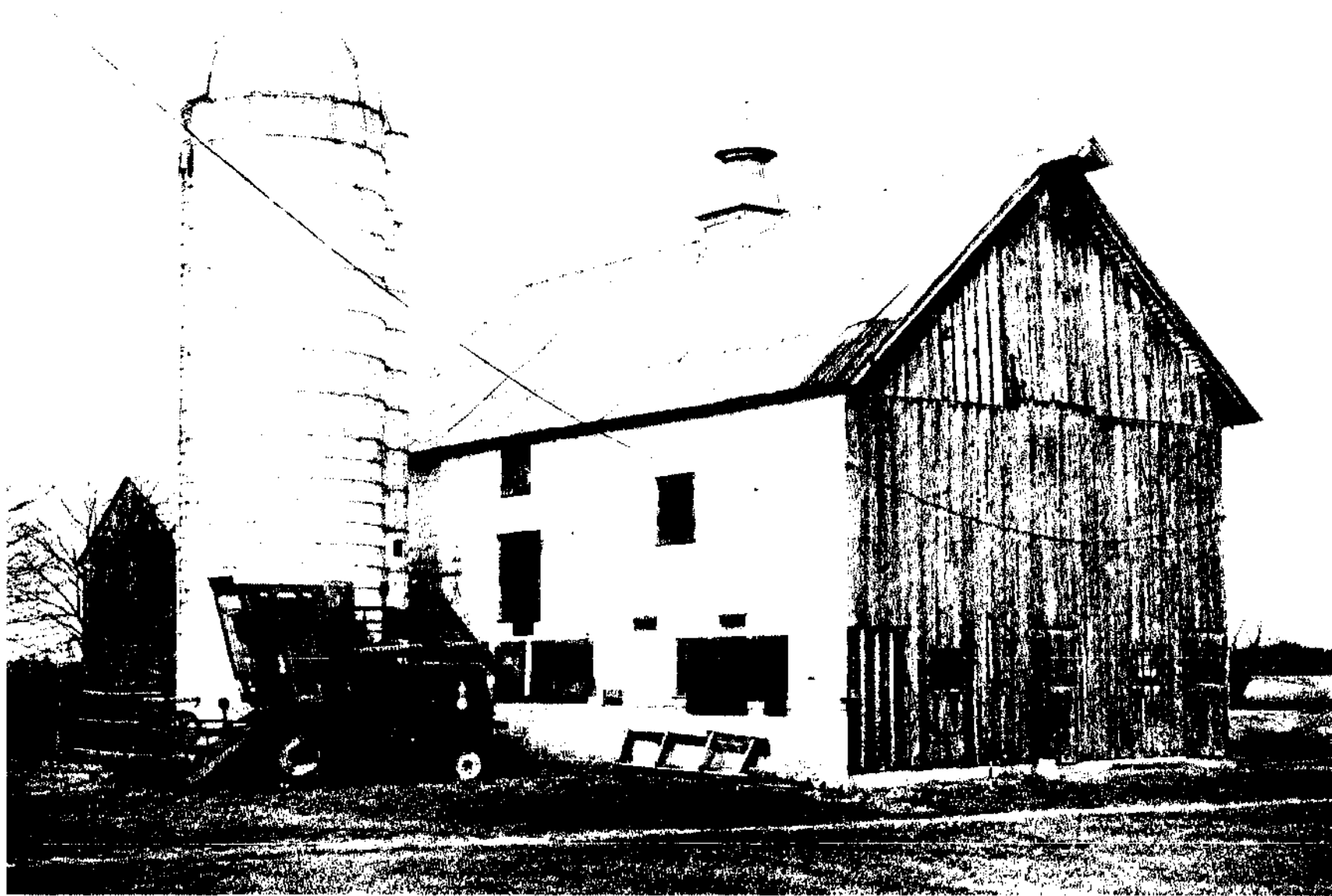


PLATE 23: Cann Farmstead, Barn, View to Northeast

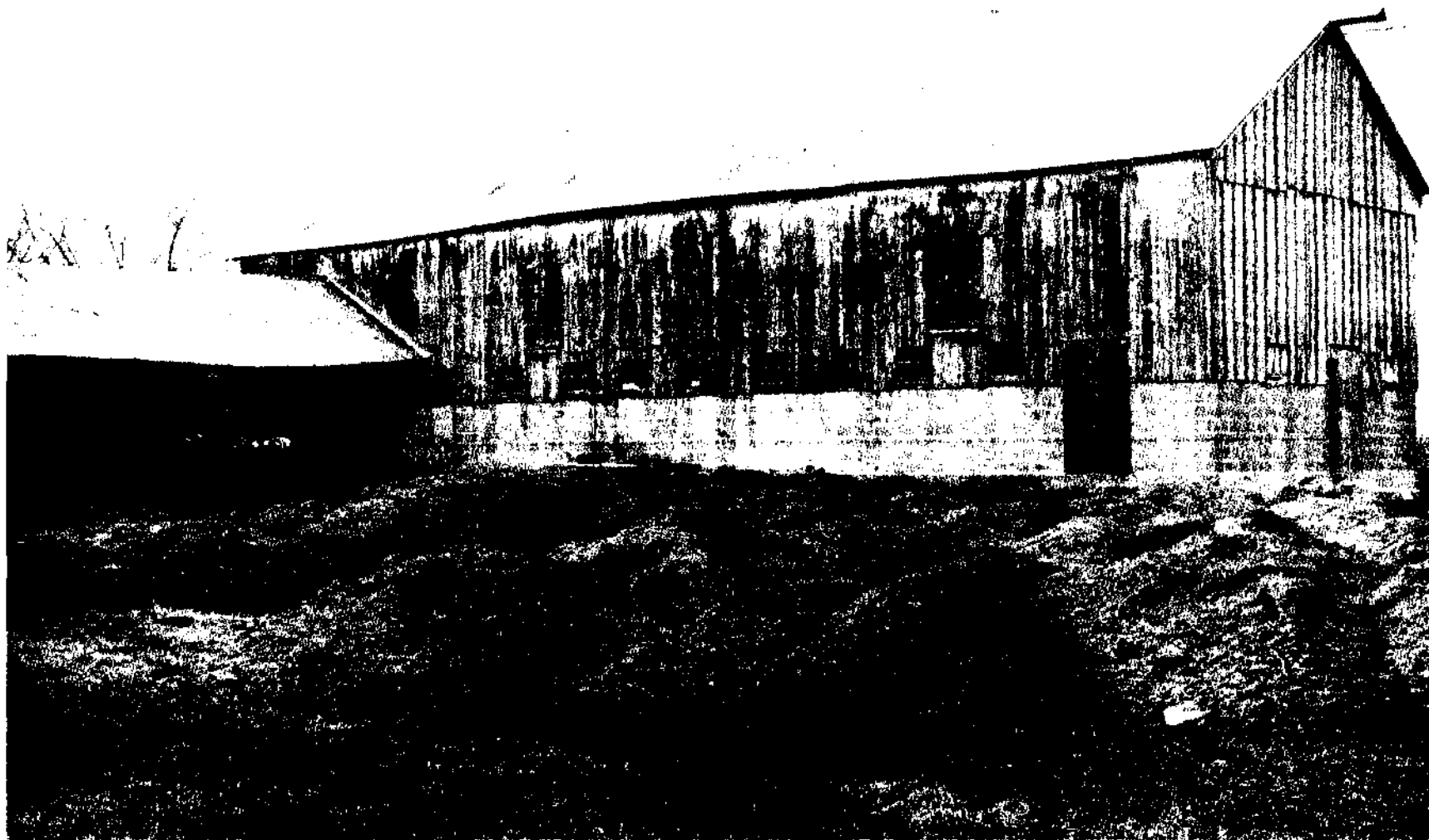


PLATE 24: Cann Farmstead, Barn, View to Northwest

The property is no longer a "working" farm, although the current, non-resident owner appears to keep the surrounding acreage under cultivation.

Historical Discussion: The history of the Cann farmstead has been traced to 1835-6, when the estate of William Cann was surveyed by order of the Orphans' Court and partitioned among Cann's heirs. At the time of his death, Cann owned three lots "near" Glasgow, plus six farm tracts in Pencader Hundred totalling 690 acres (NCC Orphans Court Records, Q1/94). Pursuant to the partition, the land was resurveyed to create tracts of approximately equal value (NCC Orphan's Court Records, Q1/104-7). To William Cann's widow, Ann, went one tract of 36 acres, with two brick dwellings, in the northwest corner of the Newark Road/railroad intersection, plus another tract of 113 acres with a dwelling on the opposite side of the road. The southeast quadrant of this intersection contained the Cann "mansion farm," which according to the valuation contained an "old house" of frame and log construction, plus two log tenements. From the map of the partition, it is shown that the two brick sections of the Cann farmhouse were present at the time it was granted to Ann Cann as the widow's life interest in her husband's estate.

Following the partition, Ann Cann released her right in the land to her oldest son, James, who had been assigned the "mansion farm" (NCC Deeds D10/170). After her death, the dower tracts descended to her three sons, James, Richard T. and Thomas M.

Cann, and to Andrew Eliason by right of his wife, Lydia Ann Cann. The latter three subsequently released their rights in the property to James Cann, but in 1872 James conveyed the dower tracts to his brother Richard T. Cann, then of Red Lion (NCC Deeds D10/170). Richard Cann left the farm to Thomas A. Cann at his death in 1907, and the latter conveyed the farm to Walter E. Cann in 1932. The farm was sold out of the family by Walter Cann in 1947.

Evaluation: The Cann farmstead is significant under National Register Criterion C. The farmhouse is an outstanding example of vernacular domestic architecture in Pencader Hundred. Its adherence to traditional, pre-Georgian, norms is clearly illustrated by the linear massing of units, the direct connection of one room to another, and the provision of an exterior access for each first floor room. As such, the house is an important structural artifact of building traditions that beginning in the late 18th century were swiftly abandoned by builders of even modest dwellings, in favor of the formalized Georgian arrangement of rooms around a center passage (see Glassie 1972). The east section combines the four-bay facade with centered pair of entries associated with the Pennsylvania German house type (cf. Glassie 1972:41-42), with a three-bay treatment of the second story. This results in a peculiarly local facade treatment that is found in at least one other nearby instance (although with only one entrance): the Roger Williams (Charles Boulden) house a short distance to the south. Retention of early interior features

(winding stair, woodwork, Federal mantelpiece) also contribute to the importance of this dwelling in the architectural history of the area.

The agricultural and domestic outbuilding may be considered contributing elements, as they represent the continuing viability of the property as an agricultural unit through the 19th and 20th centuries. The crib barn, with its gable-end entry and low earthen ramp, is a good example of this particular building type. Conversion of 19th century multipurpose barns to the specialized requirements of "modern" dairying is a prominent theme in this area's agricultural history, one well illustrated by the two large barns extant within the complex. Retention of a variety of other structures further enhances the ability of this property to convey a sense of time and place.

#### Early 20th Century House (N-3980)

Description: This house is located on the east side of Route 896, almost directly opposite an entrance to the Peoples Mall, and directly north of the Summit Bridge Trailer Park, in Glasgow. The house is situated on a narrow, deep lot, with a frontage of approximately 15 feet back from the roadway, from which it is partly obscured by a stand of shrubbery.

The house is a wood frame structure clad in red aluminum siding (Plate 25). The original block is a two-story, side-gable single-pile I-house on a rubble fieldstone foundation, to which has been added a noticeably large, two-story gable-roofed rear unit with slightly raised concrete basement. A shed-roofed one-



PLATE 25: Early 20th Century Frame House on Route 896, View Looking Northeast

room unit has been built across the original three-bay facade, and the main entrance is now located at the south end of this feature. All windows have 1/1 double hung sash, those of the original block retaining flat plank surrounds with drip shelves. A single brick chimney is located on the roof ridge toward the south gable end.

Historical Discussion: This house is tentatively dated to after 1893, based upon extrapolation from historic maps. None of these maps (see Beers 1868, Baist 1893) show a structure at this location. This date is consistent with what can be discerned of the original block, which in scale, shape and proportions resembles Clarksdale Tenant House No. 2 (see discussion of this property below).

Evaluation: This house is evaluated as not eligible for the National Register due to lack of architectural importance and loss of integrity. The I-house form, in which the house was originally conceived and built, is of recognized importance in the architectural history of the Delaware Valley culture region and by extension north-central Delaware. However, the existing structure does not display characteristics that distinguish it from other examples of its kind, and has been compromised by the scale of the rear addition, the application of aluminum siding, and the reconstruction of what was likely an original front porch.

#### Evan Lynch House (N-3979)

Description: The Evan Lynch house is located on the east side of Route 896 approximately 450 feet south of the intersection of



896 and westbound U.S. 40. It is sited close to the roadway on a narrow lot. To the north is a gas/service station, to the east a scrapyard and trailer park, and to the south scattered residences.

The house is a wood frame structure, clad with wide aluminum siding over asbestos shingling (Plates 26 and 27). It is set nearly at-grade without a basement, supported on concrete block footings along the north side and rear. The massing consists of a two-story side-gable single-pile main block with a one-story gabled rear ell which has been expanded with a second one-room unit on the east end. The roof of the main block is clad in composition shingling, while that of the ell retains wood shingles. Both have narrow eaves which at the gables are flush with the wall plane.

The facade of the house is arranged with two windows at each story and an off-center entry sheltered beneath a metal awning. Each of the side walls has one centered first floor window and a small window for attic illumination. Most window openings are fitted with 6/6 wooden double hung sash in flat plank surrounds with drip shelves. A short brick chimney with corbelled cap is set on the main roof ridge slightly to the south of center. A second chimney is located toward the gable end of the kitchen ell. A shed-roofed porch with square wood posts and plank floor is located in the angle formed by the main block and ell. No interior information is available due to occupant's refusal to permit access.



PLATE 26: Evan Lynch House, View to Northeast



PLATE 27: Evan Lynch House, View to Northwest

Historical Discussion: Based on extrapolation from historic maps, the house corresponds to one of two structures present at this location in 1868 under the occupation of N. Adams.

Subsequent maps and area directories associate the property with Evan W. Lynch, who was listed in the directories for 1875 and 1888 as Glasgow's shoemaker.

Evaluation: Although somewhat dilapidated, and altered by application of artificial siding, the Lynch house is one of the few remaining wood frame structures associated with Glasgow's 19th century history as a crossroads hamlet. Although lacking clear architectural importance, the house may be interpreted as a structural artifact of Glasgow's past, and is in particular associated with the row of "artisan entrepreneurs" who in the later 19th century plied their trades from dwellings and shops situated on the east side of the Newark Road below the New Castle and Frenchtown Turnpike. Historic maps of Glasgow (Beers 1868, Hopkins 1881, Baist 1893) indicate that most occupants of this "row" were blacksmiths and wheelwrights, for example John Thornton and George Biggs (see Figure 6). Of these, only the Lynch house remains to represent the work of artisans and craftsmen who, with hoteliers and merchants, contributed to the viability of Glasgow from its late 18th century beginning as a tavern stop. As such, the Lynch house may be interpreted as locally significant under National Register Criterion A, for its functional association with this long-lived Pencader Hundred crossroads community.

### The Hermitage (N-3990)

Description: The property known as the Hermitage is an agricultural complex of over 40 buildings situated on the north side of U.S. Route 40 east of Pencader Cemetery in Glasgow (Plate 28). Cultivated fields lie adjacent to the farmstead on the east and west. Some 250 feet to the north of the farmstead is a large office complex associated with the DuPont Glasgow Plant, which corporation has since 1966 been the owner and operator of the farmstead.

The core of the farmstead is sited approximately 450 feet back from the highway, approached by a long unpaved drive lined with mature coniferous and deciduous trees. The drive forks directly in front of the farmhouse, and the fork is marked with a pair of mature holly trees.

The farmhouse, built in the second quarter of the 19th century, is the oldest structure in the complex. Directly west of this house are two tenant houses appearing to date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The principal agricultural outbuildings are located in two ranges consisting chiefly of dairy barns and associated structures lying north and northeast of the farmhouse. Northwest of the farmhouse, are two parallel ranges of machine sheds and other structures, many of which have been erected under DuPont or moved by the corporation from other properties in its possession. The current function of the complex as a whole is to farm the undeveloped tracts owned by Dupont and to provide maintenance for the expansive grounds of the corporation's Glasgow Plant.

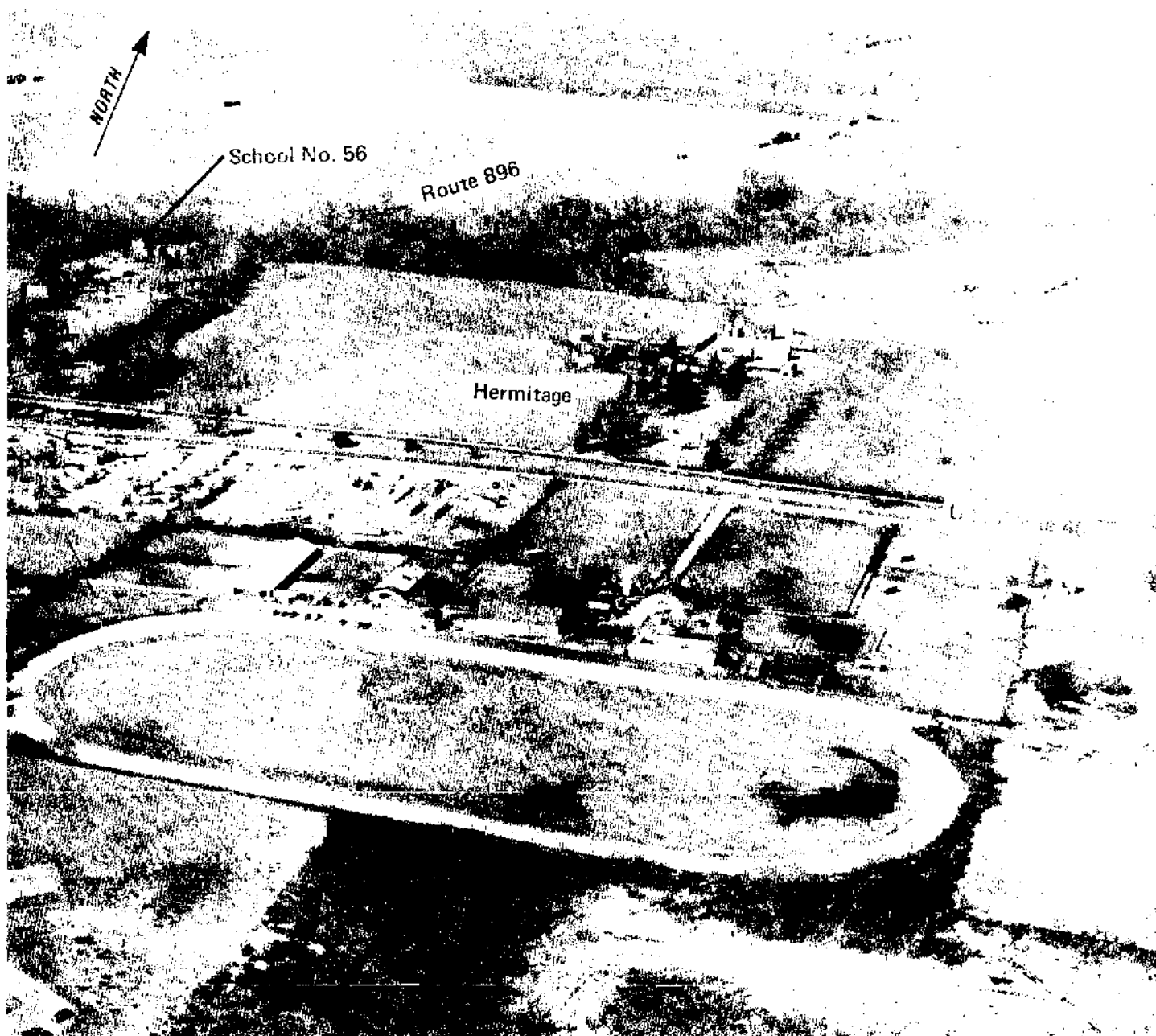


PLATE 28: Hermitage and School No 56

SOURCE. DELDOT

The farmhouse is constructed of brick, clad with roughcast stucco and painted yellow, on a full, slightly raised brick basement (Plates 29 and 30). The massing consists of a 2-1/2 story, side gable single-pile main block with a full-height projecting rectangular pavilion at center rear and a two-story gabled roofed ell to which has been added a one-story slant-roofed frame kitchen unit. The standing-seam metal roofs have molded cornices with partial returns. Stuccoed brick chimney stacks are located within each gable end.

The farmhouse facade is symmetrically divided into three bays with center entrance and small "eyebrow" windows at attic level. Window openings have wood lintels and sills; the lintels on the facade feature square, unmolded corner blocks. In addition, facade windows have shutters on the first story, and louvered shutters on the second and attic stories. Most windows in the brick portions are fitted with 6/6 wooden double hung sash. The main entrance has a paneled door set within a broad, flat surround. A wooden veranda with Tuscan Doric columns is built across the west and south elevations, extended as a porte-cochere off the east side. The entire west side of the porch has been fully enclosed, but the original columns remain.

The interior of the main block is arranged according to the Georgian I-house plan, with a single room to either side of a wide stairhall. On the main floor, however, the east wall of the stairhall has been completely removed, and the brick bearing wall



PLATE 29: The Hermitage, John Frazer House, View to Northwest



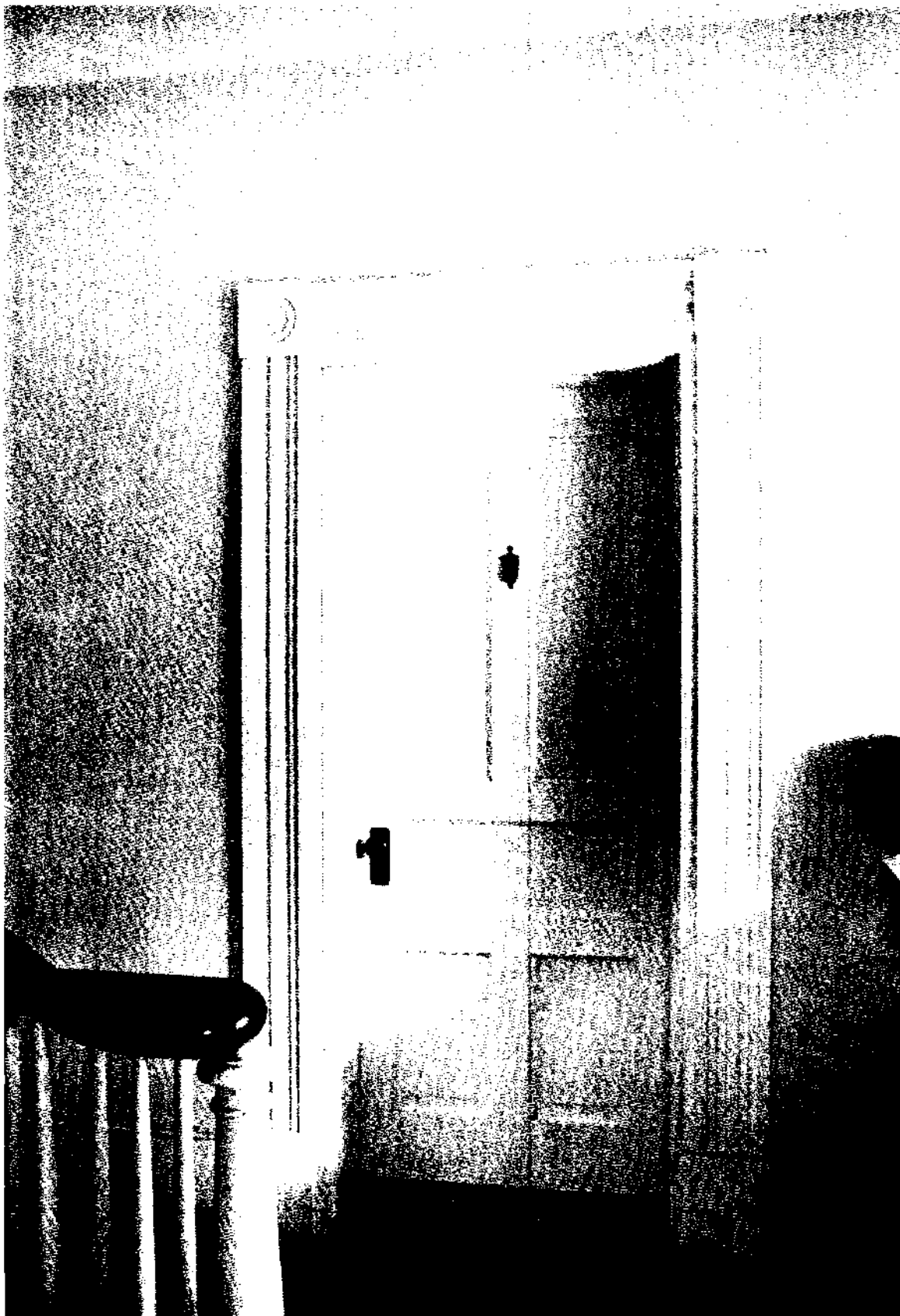


PLATE 30: The Hermitage, John Frazer House, View to South

on the second floor is now supported on a large boxed and paneled beam. The mantel of the fireplace on the east wall is five feet high, made of flat, unmolded wooden members and ornamented only by two stylized scroll brackets beneath the mantel shelf. The fireplace opening has been largely filled in and faced with 2" x 2" terra cotta tiles. Similar treatment has been accorded the dining room fireplace on the west gable end wall, which is smaller than that of the parlor and has a simple mantel with applied flat molding strips. Other interior woodwork found on both floors includes 6-inch molded baseboards, wide molded window and doorway surrounds with bull-eye corner blocks, and a broad open staircase with slender turned newel posts and spindle balusters (Plates 31 and 32). The attic level is fully finished as a series of small, simply-appointed rooms.

Of the rear extensions, the gable-roofed ell has been completely remodeled as a recreation room and the kitchen relocated to the frame section on the east. The original purpose of the rectangular pavilion at the center rear of the main block is not entirely clear; it contains a single room on each floor, the upper two fitted out as bathrooms.

As mentioned above, the numerous outbuildings on the farmstead are for the most part organized in linear ranges, each range distinguished to a greater or lesser degree by an identifiable period of construction and/or function. Directly west of the farmhouse is a short range consisting of two tenant dwellings. The westernmost is a turn-of-the-century, 2-1/2 story



**PLATE 31: The Hermitage, John Frazer House, Doorway and Portion of Stair, Second Floor**



PLATE 32: The Hermitage, John Frazer House, Fireplace and Mantel, Second Floor West

frame house on a high cast concrete block foundation, massed as front gable unit with full-height wing to the west and clad with artificial shingles. Between this and the farmhouse is an early 20th century one-story bungalow with narrow clapboards and low hipped roof beneath which is subsumed a broad screened porch. To the northeast of the bungalow is a third dwelling unit, a hipped-roofed frame structure containing an apartment above a two-car garage.

The westernmost subarea of the Hermitage complex (functioning primarily for machine and grain storage) consists of two rows of structures oriented to face on another across a broad drive, terminating at the west in a cluster of round corrugated metal grain bins and a grain elevator (Plate 33). The southern row is composed of a variety of gable- and slant-roofed detached frame structures including several poultry houses, machine sheds, and a mobile home of almost antique vintage. According to the principal tenant, most of these structures were moved to their present locations by the DuPont corporation. The north row of structures features two large front-gable frame buildings (one of which may have once been a barn or stable) connected by low corrugated-metal roofed sheds, one of which shelters a row of grain bins.

The north subarea of the farmstead consists of two ranges of structures flanking the lane leading to the DuPont Glasgow Plant. On the west side of the lane is a very long side-gable single story structure clad entirely in corrugated sheet metal on cinder block and concrete slab foundations; this structure is used as a

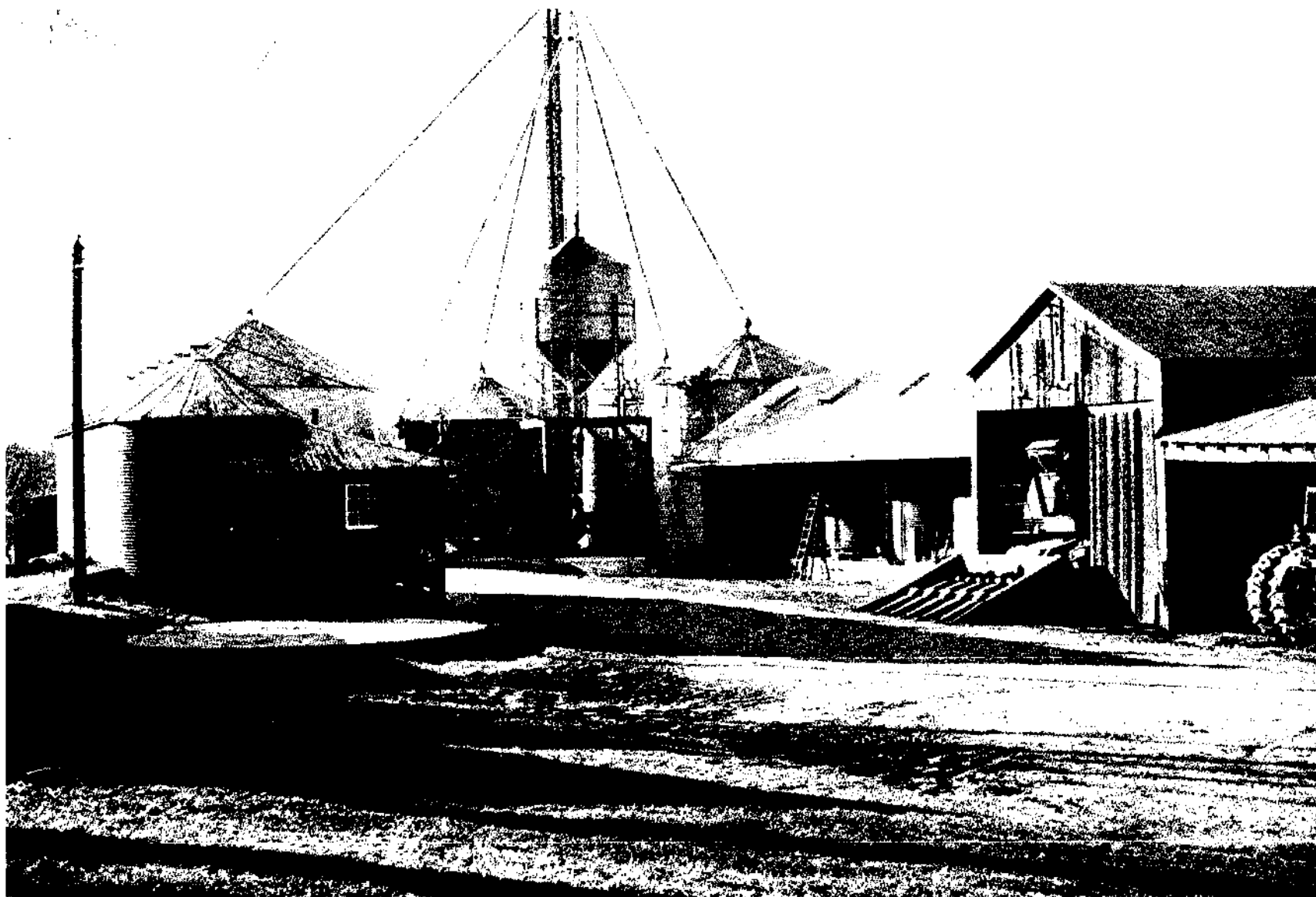


PLATE 33: The Hermitage, Machine Sheds, Grain Bins and Grain Elevator, View to West

maintenance and repair shop. On the east side of the lane are three gambrel-roofed dairy barns from the first quarter of this century (Plates 34 and 35). The northernmost two have wood shingle roofs, drop siding, 9-light single sash hinged at the bottom, double-leaf sliding ground floor and hayloft doors, and concrete milking floor with pipe stanchions and rows of metal columns which support I-beams carrying the lofts. The third, by far largest, dairy barn is 20 bays long, with a standing-seam gambrel roof, shed dormers, timber-framed loft level clad in drop siding, and ground level of cast concrete block, the textured outer face of which has a red-brown glaze. The same material is utilized in the two tall silos and small gable-roofed structures attached to either side of the main barn structure, the ground floor of which features a concrete floor, metal columns and I-beams, and pipe stanchions.

The east subarea of the farmstead consists of two barns, connected by a long machine shed open on the south side. The easternmost barn is a wood frame structure with composition shingle gambrel roof, drop siding and concrete floor. The west barn is a gable-roofed structure, the walls of which are painted brick with timber framing above (Plate 36). The concrete floor of the lower level is accessed from the north end, as the floor at the south end is below grade. This barn is a modified bank type, the upper level reached by an earthen ramp leading to a gable-roofed bridge that encloses the entrance to the drive floor on the west side.



PLATE 34: The Hermitage, Main Dairy Barn, View to Northeast





PLATE 35: The Hermitage, Dairy Barns, View to Northeast

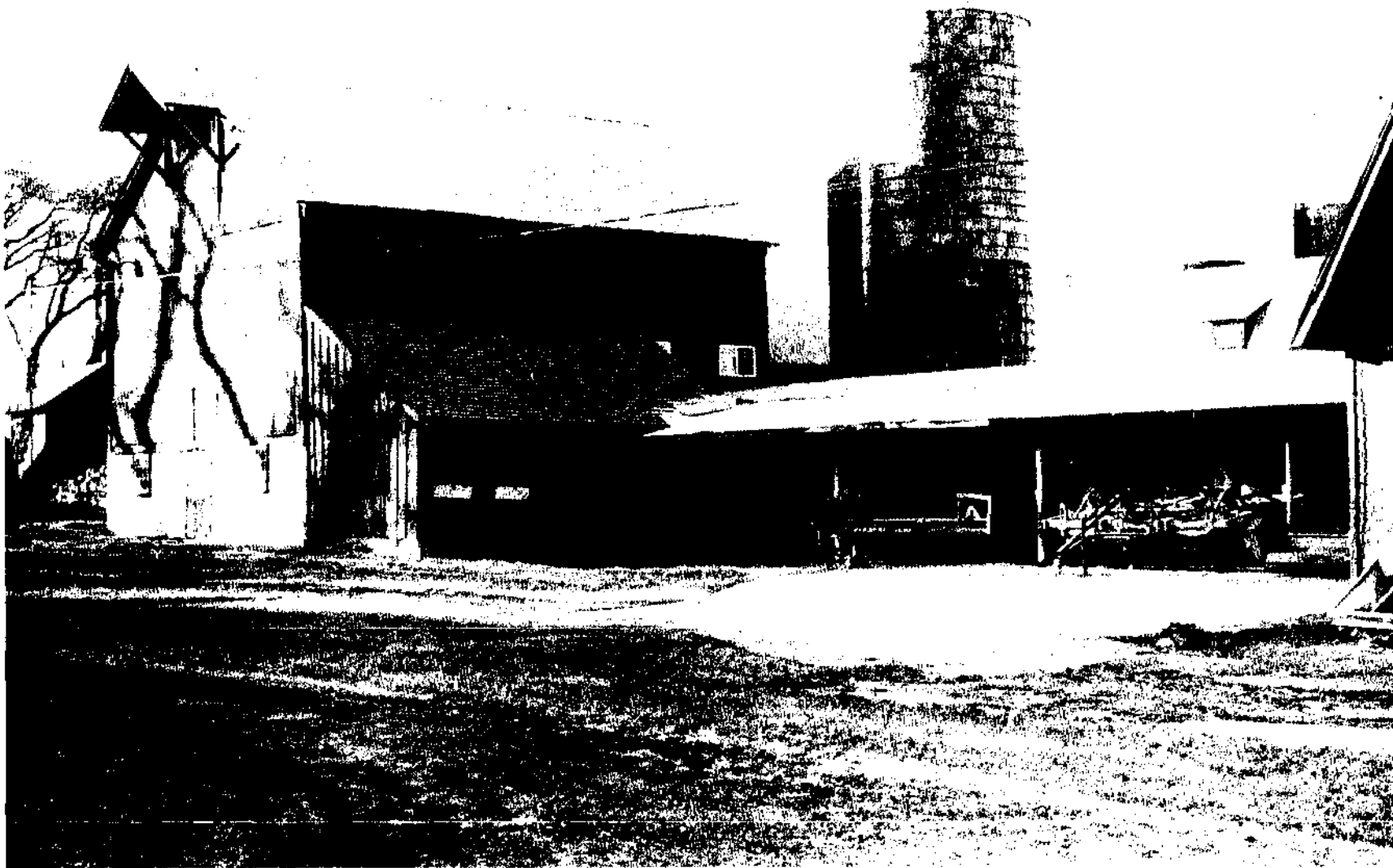


PLATE 36: The Hemitage, Bank Barn with Attached Machine Shed, View to Northwest

Most of the structures in the Hermitage complex are in good to excellent condition, although many, including the barns, are no longer in use.

Historical Discussion: The history of this property has been traced to 1783, when William Thompson, a farmer in Pencader Hundred, acquired a "plantation and premises" of approximately 137 acres from John Bowen (NCC Deeds E3/218). The tract remained in the Thompson family until 1836, when Daniel and Letitia Thompson sold it to John Frazer, then of New Castle Hundred (NCC Deeds, E5/130). Frazer, who named the property the Hermitage (Beers 1868) is presumed to have been responsible for construction of the 2-1/2 story brick dwelling present on the farmstead today.

John Frazer died "on his farm" in 1887 (Runk 1899:342), leaving a \$3,000 debt that remained unsettled until his farm was sold to Theodore Crawford at a Sheriff's sale in 1894 (NCC Deeds L16/59). In 1896-7, the farm passed through several owners before being acquired by William D. Howell of St. Georges Hundred (NCC Deeds N17/325). The farm may have been operated by tenants, as William and his wife, Sallie, were listed in Mill Creek Hundred at the time they sold the farm to Mary J. Howell in 1905 (NCC Deeds E20/57). The following year, the Howells conveyed the Hermitage to Edwin Armstrong of Pencader Hundred (NCC Deeds A21/77) who sold it to William H. Armstrong in 1911 (NCC Deeds E23/371). In 1915, the farm was sold to John Wirt Willis, who in 1913 had acquired over 260 acres adjacent to the Frazer farm from

heirs of the 19th century Clark estate to the north (NCC Deeds H25/583; L24/75). Under Willis' ownership, the Hermitage farm appears to have been substantially developed as a large dairy operation, with construction of new dairy barns, renovation of existing structures and remodeling of the Frazer farmhouse. In 1942, when Willis sold his Pencader Hundred holdings to Peter and Elizabeth Zeitler, the property included a "large mansion house, tenant houses, large dairy barn, other barns, sheds, dwelling houses and other improvements" (NCC Deeds G43/491). Under the Zeitlers, the farm (at this time over 500 acres) was incorporated as Zeitler Farms, Inc., from which it was sold in 1966 to the DuPont Corporation.

Evaluation: The farmstead known as the Hermitage is locally significant under National Register Criterion C. The Frazer house embodies distinctive characteristics of the Georgian I-house form which was a dominant theme in the rural domestic architectural tradition of northern and middle Delaware from its introduction in the later 18th century through the extensive rebuilding of the agricultural landscape that began in the second quarter of the 19th century (Glassie 1972:37; Herman 1987:145-46). Essentially vernacular in concept, the house does not display obvious attributes of popular style, although the attic-level "eyebrow" windows suggest the influence of the Greek Revival on the builder. The early 20th century remodeling of the house resulted, on the exterior, in construction of an expansive columned porch that while somewhat elaborate against the relative simplicity of the facade was a common feature of the Colonial Revival idiom.

The associated agricultural complex derives its character and significance under Criterion C through its development as a large scale dairy operation in the first decades of the 20th century. The great expansion of the dairy industry, a major theme in northern and middle Delaware's late 19th and early 20th century agricultural history, is illustrated by the substantial new barns and silos erected at the Hermitage in order to partake of this development. These structures provide excellent example of a form of agricultural "rebuilding" that occurred in order to adapt traditional mixed (grain and livestock) farms to the operational and sanitary requirements of large scale commercial dairying in the early 20th century.

In addition to the architectural elements, certain landscape features contribute to the significance of the Hermitage. The long (450') unpaved drive from U.S. 40 is carefully ornamented with a line of mature conifers on the west and mature deciduous trees on the east. At a wye directly before the house, this allee terminates in a pair of mature holly trees that flank the walk to the front entrance of the farmhouse. The formality of this designed landscape provides an effective introduction to the symmetry of the farmhouse facade and the neoclassical columned veranda.

District School #56 (N-3881)

Description: School #56 is located on the west side of Route 896, at a slight curve in the highway approximately 1/2 mile

north of the 896/U.S. 40 intersection at Glasgow. It is the only structure on the small lot, which is framed by scrub woodland on three sides. The building is set back some 30 feet from the roadway proper, adjacent to which is a 10 foot shoulder and drainage ditch, and has a low trimmed hedge at the front. A low wire fence extends along the front and south edges of the lot.

School #56 is a one-story, front-gable rectangular building of wood frame construction on a raised brick foundation encompassing a full basement (Plates 37 and 38). The exterior is clad with drop siding; the roof is covered with composition shingling and has narrow boxed eaves. The side and front elevations are each divided into three bays. Windows have flat plank surrounds with drip shelves and tall 6/6 wooden double-hung sash. The centered entrance features a six-panel wooden door above which is a large two-light transom panel. A gable-roofed porch with square posts is set on a high wood plank floor, reached by a set of concrete steps. On the north side, toward the rear, a brick chimney rises from the roof near the eave.

The building is no longer used for educational purposes, but does function as an occasional meeting place for a local bikers' group. The interior (viewable during this survey only from outside) appears to retain its original one-room configuration.

Historical Discussion: Following passage of the Free School Act of 1829, Pencader Hundred was divided into five school districts Numbered 54-58. A school is shown at the location of the present structure in 1849 (Rea & Price 1849) and on sub-



PLATE 37: School No. 56, View to Southwest



PLATE 38: School No 56, View to North



sequent 19th century maps of the area (Beers 1868, Baist 1893). The present structure appears to date from the late 19th or early 20th century; as such it is an integral element in the continuum of rural education and rural school building that once begun in 1829 and continued in Pencader Hundred until the second World War. The school's one-story, one-room front-gable form is almost archetypal in rural school construction, in Delaware as well as in many other areas of the United States. Its original design intent and function remain immediately appreciable.

Evaluation: School #56 is evaluated as eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the school is directly associated with the history of rural public education in Pencader Hundred and the immediate community of Glasgow, which although never achieving more than hamlet status has managed to retain both a sense of community and a number of significant features of its past architectural history (recognized through the Aikens Tavern Historic District) (Heite 1976). Under Criterion C, School #56 retains a high level of integrity, continuing to display the form and basic features characteristic of rural educational architecture in north-central Delaware. In addition, of the three district schoolhouses once located on Route 896, the historic road between Newark and Summit Bridge, one (#54) is no longer extant (see Catts and Cunningham 1986) while School #57 (at Howell School Road) has been extensively modified and subsequently damaged (Lothrop et al. 1986). In contrast, School #56 remains largely unaltered and in good condition.

### Clarksdale Tenant Houses

Description: There remain on Route 896, north of Glasgow, three dwellings, each now under separate ownership, that were identified in the Route 896 archaeological investigations (Lothrop et al. 1986) as former tenant houses associated with the 19th century agricultural holdings of the Cantwell Clark family in Pencader Hundred. The site of a fourth such dwelling was also identified during that investigation, but the structure itself is no longer extant. For purposes of consistency, the following discussion uses the numbers originally assigned by Lothrop et al. (1986).

Tenant House #2 (N-10616): This dwelling is situated on the east side of Route 896 adjacent to the DuPont Corporation's Glasgow plant. The dwelling is of wood frame construction, with a full basement of fieldstone beneath the front section, and is clad in blue synthetic shingling (Plates 39 and 40). According to an undated historic photo in the owners' possession, the house was originally massed as a two-story three-bay, center hall, single-pile side-gable main block with a one-story rear kitchen ell. Under the present owners, a portion of the front wall was removed, a full-length porch replaced with a fully-enclosed addition, the rear ell substantially expanded, and most of the original interior spaces rearranged. Among the few features remaining from the period prior to remodelling are several 6/6 double hung sash windows in flat surrounds with narrow drip shelves, and the brick chimney stack centered on the roof ridge.



PLATE 39: Clarksdale Tenant House No 2, View Looking Northeast



PLATE 40: Clarksdale Tenant House No 2, View Looking Southwest

Tenant House #3 (N- ): This dwelling is located some 600 feet back from the west edge of Route 896, directly opposite the entrance to the DuPont Glasgow Plant. The land on which it is located is in the process of redevelopment as the Pencader Corporate Center, and has been laid out with streets called "Corporate Boulevard" "Executive Drive", etc. Tenant residents occupy a trailer home adjacent to the house, which is vacant. The only other structure on the property is a cement block garage.

The house consists of a two-story side gable main block of stuccoed brick, with a two-story gable-roofed wood frame ell off the south side (Plates 41 and 42). The north elevation features two widely-spaced windows at each story, and a narrow pentroof extending the length of the wall between the floors. The west side has two windows on the first floor and one centered above them on the second story. A relatively new exterior brick chimney separates the two bays into which the east gable end is divided. The only exterior entrance to the brick section is located in this wall, sheltered by a modern gable-roofed porch on a concrete slab. The frame ell, clad in synthetic shingling, is one bay long and two bays wide. On the west side, in the re-entrant angle formed by the two sections of the house, is a partially screened slant-roofed porch within which is the entry to the kitchen area.

Tenant House #4 (N- ): This dwelling is situated on the west side of Route 896 almost directly opposite the intersection with Road 408. The house has a two-story, side-gable single-pile



PLATE 41: Clarksdale Tenant House No 3, View Looking Southwest

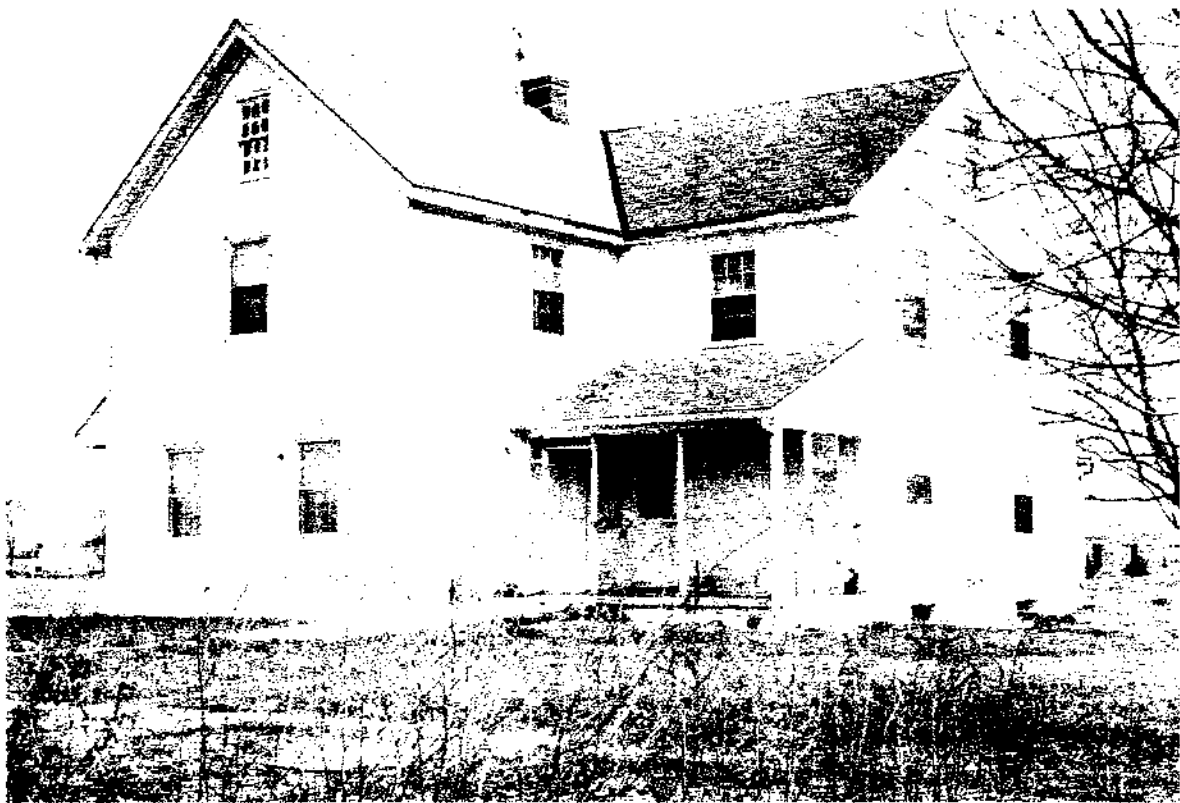


PLATE 42: Clarksdale Tenant House No 3, View Looking Northeast

main block to which have been added two slant-roofed units, one of two stories, the other of one story, across the rear (Plates 43 and 44). The entire building, which is of wood frame construction, was covered with red facebrick in 1955, thereby completely obliterating its original exterior wall surfaces. Off the south gable end is a one-room addition on a raised brick foundation. The original main block retains most of its 6/6 double hung sash windows in flat, unmolded surrounds with narrow cornices. The eaves of the low, corrugated metal-clad roof are embellished along with the east side and gable ends with a narrow scalloped fascia board. Two tall brick interior chimneys are symmetrically located on the rear roof slope. A one-bay porch with standing-steam metal clad gable roof and thin Tuscan Doric style columns shelters the main entrance.

Historical Discussion: According to the Beers atlas of Pencader Hundred, structures were present at the locations of Tenant Houses #3 and 4 by 1868, and it is not unreasonable to suppose from their general form that Tenant Houses #3 and 4 are those indicated on that map. Construction of Tenant House #2 has been dated to the early 20th century, based on historic maps and archaeological investigations conducted in 1986 (Lothrop et al. 1986).

All three dwellings are associated with the agricultural tracts assembled by Cantwell Clark in the 1830s and collectively known as "Clarksdale" from the name given to the home farm (Beers 1868). Clark's activities in Pencader Hundred suggest an





PLATE 43: Clarksdale Tenant House No 4, View Looking Northwest



PLATE 44: Clarksdale Tenant House No 4, View to East

interesting case study in the agglomeration of farms in middle and northern Delaware that followed the agricultural depression of the early 19th century. In three transactions beginning in 1831, Cantwell Clark (then of Red Lion Hundred) acquired over 1,600 acres in Pencader Hundred, at a cost of more than \$15,000 (NCC Deeds Q4/92; W4/63; C5/491). Most of these holdings lay north of the Frenchtown Pike (U.S. Route 40), on both sides of Route 896, with one 300-acre tract located to the south on Porter Road (Rea and Price 1849; Beers 1868; Baist 1893).

Cantwell Clark died in 1869, leaving to his five children (Annie, Laura, Maria, Cantwell Jr., and Delaware) all his "farms and tracts of land" (NCC Wills A2/426). Subsequently, Laura, Maria and Cantwell Clark, Jr. died, leaving Annie and Delaware heirs to the Clark family farms (NCC Deeds Z12/147). In 1884, the two siblings made an "equal partition of the lands they held as tenants in common" with Delaware receiving the home farm, called "Clarksdale", which lay between Dayett's Mill Pond and Route 896, and the "lower" (Porter Road) farm on which were at that time a two-story frame house and frame barn (NCC Deeds Z12/147). His sister Annie Clark Skinner, received 353 acres on the west side of Route 896, plus a farm lying east of Clarksdale and Dayett's Mill Pond, each of which included a two story brick dwelling, a frame barn and other outbuildings (NCC Deeds Z12/153).

Delaware Clark died in 1911, at which time he still had possession of Clarksdale and the lower farm, plus a house in Newark (Estate of Delaware Clark, NCC Record of Wills #2302). His

heirs retained the Clarksdale farm until 1938, when they sold it to John Wirt Willis, who had previously (1913) acquired the farm lying east of Clarksdale and Dayett's Mill Pond from the heirs of Annie Clark Skinner. These Clark family farms thus became part of the large dairy operation that Willis developed, centered around the former Hermitage farm on U.S. Route 40 (see discussion of Hermitage, above).

Concerning the tenant houses themselves, #3 is believed to be the "two story brick dwelling" associated with the Clark farm lying west of Route 896 which in 1884 was formally conveyed to Annie Clark Skinner by her brother, Delaware Clark. #2 is believed to be a tenant house on the Clarksdale farm proper, and is mentioned in the 1911 inventory of Delaware Clark's estate. The main house of the Clark family, located a short distance southeast of #2, was removed, along with a large brick barn, for construction of a portion of the DuPont Glasgow plant. No information apart from that contained in historic maps (Beers 1868, Baist 1893) has been obtained concerning Tenant House #4.

Evaluation: These three tenant houses are evaluated in terms of their architectural attributes under National Register Criterion C. The basic form of all three dwellings is the I-house type, two stories high and one room deep, that characterized much rural domestic construction on northern and central Delaware from the late 18th through late 19th centuries. The ubiquity of this house type is testament to its importance in the architectural history of the region; however, each of the three Clarksdale

tenant houses has experienced a loss of integrity, both of fabric and of context, that prevents them from meeting National Register criteria for architectural significance. House #2, lying east of Route 896, has been extensively remodeled on both interior and exterior, and its setting is wholly dominated by the vast bulk of the DuPont plant immediately behind it. House #4, now occupying a narrow lot adjacent to a commercial establishment, has been clad in a facebrick that has clearly altered the original character of this wood frame dwelling. House #3 is somewhat problematic, as it may be, relatively speaking, the least altered of the three structures. Because permission to view the interior was denied, interior information that might aid in interpreting the fabric of this house is not available. It is possible that, if the north elevation was originally the front, the original main entrance has been filled in, with corresponding loss of facade integrity. (A north orientation for a dwelling of this age and location would be rather unusual; most existing 18th and early 19th century rural dwellings in the region, where their orientation is not focused on a road, tend to face south or west). As is the case with #2 and 4, the agricultural context of #3 is no longer extant, and the dwelling stands as an isolated object in a nascent corporate subdivision. Thus, as a result of the physical and contextual alterations that have affected these structures, none retain a clear ability to represent or convey the circumstances in which they were originally built and used. As such, a case for their National Register eligibility cannot be advanced.